Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-026
Tuesday
9 February 1988

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Cuba

Further on Malmierca's 5 Feb Statements

FL082134 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1404 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca by Tele-Rebelde reporter Juan Jose Fernandez Vidal at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport on Malmierca's return from tour of Latin America on 5 February—recorded]

[Text] [Fernandez] What is your opinion and assessment of Latin American unity in confronting economic problems at this time?

[Malmierca] We could say that we have been able, on the one hand, to confirm the growing feeling of independence in our region; we have also been able to ascertain the growth of the necessary Latin American integration, of the need to strengthen relations in all fields—political, economic, and social. Among ever-present topics, there has also been reference to the economic situation, both worldwide and closer to home, in the Latin American countries. Of course, the foreign debt has a special role in this situation.

We all know of President Fidel Castro's diagnosis of the situation several years back. As he pointed out a long time ago, the debt is not only an economic issue; it is also a situation whose political and social aspects should also be dealt with. He also noted that payment of the debt should not be discussed because the debt is unpayable and uncollectable, as well.

After visiting these countries, my general impression is that there is a growing awareness the debt is unpayable and uncollectable, and that collective solutions must be sought to face this problem. It is not enough to abolish, to cancel the debt. Different conditions must be created; progress must be made toward the establishment of a new international economic order to create real conditions which will allow us to move forward along the path of development.

We have said that President Fidel Castro's response to the eight presidents who met in Acapulco reasserted the Cuban revolution's historical will to work, to help in Latin American integration, Latin American unity; to help strengthen and consolidate relations among the countries of our America. We followed closely, we appreciated the statements of several presidents meeting in Acapulco about their determination to help Cuba return to the inter-American system. On each of numerous occasions, we have said that this matter must be subjected to a careful, detailed analysis. The other countries in our region, not just Cuba, should take part in this analysis so a determination can be reached as to what conditions and time are suitable for Cuba's return, and as to what the nature and character of an Organization of American States should be.

There are many previous instances of U.S. pressures to destabilize Panama. We think that some of these gestures, actions are truly unprecedented in the history of international relations. This is the case of the U.S. Senate statement practically proposing a change of government in Panama and the open interference in Panama's internal affairs of the U.S. ambassador and of members of the U.S. Armed Forces. We feel this new move is part of the whole process. It is a process that undoubtedly stems from the fact that Panama has played an active, positive, constructive role in the efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups to try to find a peaceful solution to the Central American situation.

It is clear to all of us that as the moment nears when the United States must leave the Panama Canal Zone, must turn over the administration of the canal to the Panama Government, it is trying to create conditions to prevent the process from being achieved, the Carter-Torrijos Treaties from being implemented.

After our visit to Panama, we feel that the Panamanian Government and people are committed to their will, their determination to work, to defend their right to exercise sovereignty over the canal. We believe that, as in the past, this stance deserves the solidarity of all Latin American people.

Everywhere we went we heard a very positive assessment of the steps taken toward disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament; of the agreement signed in Washington between Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU, and President Reagan. Everyone noted the importance of this document, which is historic, positive, and deserves to be hailed and recognized by everyone because it is the first disarmament agreement in history, the first step along the road to disarmament. Other agreements should follow this one [words indistinct] continue to do away with the nuclear threat, the nuclear confrontation, first through the elimination of half the warheads, and then the complete elimination of these warheads. Everyone noted the need to ban nuclear testing, to make progress toward an accord to ban the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, and to move also toward disarmament in the area of conventional weapons.

[Fernandez] What impressed you the most? What did you find most valuable in this tour of five Latin American countries.

[Malmierca] I have been very impressed by manifestations of the determination to achieve Latin American unity, the growing awareness of the need for the integration of our countries. I must say this came up not only in meetings with the leaders of these countries, but also on each occasion [words indistinct] when we had the opportunity to exchange views with representatives of the various institutions [words indistinct].

I must also say it was very thrilling for us to meet with recognition and support for the Cuban revolution and President Fidel Castro everywhere. I was commenting with some of the ambassadors of the countries we visited, who are now waiting in the next room, that often, when I finished placing a wreath at the monument to one of the patriots of the countries visited, or when we left the meeting places, people in the street, your everyday person, hailed Cuba and asked us to greet Fidel Castro in their name. They told us they stood with Cuba, that they were happy relations with Cuba were growing. That, of course, was very moving to me. However, we were not only impressed from a selfish point of view but also because we identified these actions with Cuba's example. Cuba has stood up for almost 30 years to the American aggression, pressures, and threats. Cuba has demonstrated how it was possible to triumph over imperialist aggression, how it was possible in those difficult circumstances to create the conditions that today we enjoy and can proudly show our brother countries; how we can make progress along the road of cooperation by being able to share the experience we have accumulated during all these years.

I feel that these are the elements that most impressed us during this visit.

Soviet Minister Visits Electronics Factory

FL081540 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Erlen Pervyshin, Soviet minister of the Communications Equipment Industry, has visited the industrial electronic enterprise in Santiago de las Vegas Municipality, Havana. The minister emphasized the need to speed up the personnel preparation process in Cuba and the Soviet Union to begin large-scale production as soon as possible. Pedro Miret, vice president of the Cuban State Council and Government, accompanied Pervyshin on his visit.

Brazilian Minister Discusses Cooperation

FL021536 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Luiz Henrique da Silveira, Brazilian science and technology minister, has met in Havana with Rosa Elena Simeon, president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences. The two officials discussed specific aspects of bilateral cooperation.

The Brazilian minister said he expects that possibilities for bilateral relations will increase in the areas of biotechnology and computer science.

Meets With Fernandez

FL050440 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Mr Luis Henriquez da Silveira, Brazilian minister of science and technology, was received today by Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and Cuban education minister. The two leaders agreed that this exchange will contribute to establish close cooperation ties between the two countries in the field of scientific research. For this purpose, Cuban specialists will be sent to Brazil and vice versa. Mr Henriquez da Silveira has visited several centers in this capital where complex research projects are being conducted.

Tours Energy Research Center

FL060035 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2046 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Luis Henriquez da Silveira, Brazilian minister of science and technology, arrived in Santiago de Cuba today as part of an exchange visit he has been paying in our country since 30 January. Da Silveira toured the 26 de Julio Museum, the Abel Santa Maria Park-Museum, and the Granjita Siboney where he learned about the history of the Cuban people.

The Brazilian delegation, headed by Da Silveira, also visited the solar energy research center in Santiago de Cuba, where they were briefed on ongoing projects which recycle energy sources. They were particularly interested in the equipment and accessories which use these energy sources.

Agreements With Brazil, Bulgaria Signed

FL061342 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Cuba and Brazil have signed in Havana a protocol of intent to develop cooperation in the areas of biotechnology, basic sciences, and meterology. The document was signed by Rosa Elena Simeon, president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, and Luis Henriquez da Silveira, Brazilian minister of Science and Technology.

Our country also signed yesterday the 1988 trade agreement with Bulgaria which totals 340 million rubles. The agreement allows for the exchange of sugar, honey, minerals, citrus, and Cuban electronic items for raw materials, food, large appliances [articulos de consumo duradero], and electronic products from Bulgaria.

Tourists Note 'Excellent Treatment' in Prisons

FL091410 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Tourists who have visited Cuban prisons noted the excellent treatment given to inmates. The visitors, including personalities of the legal world, had the opportunity of talking directly with inmates. A Venezuelan tourist said: In my country—and I believe in many others—there is no prison warden who would risk authorizing a group of tourists to visit the institution.

UN Development Program Provides Assistance

FL060402 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Ernesto Melendez, Minister President of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and (Constante Musi), (?resident coordinator) of the UN Development Program, signed today the technical assistance plan of a pilot plant for the production of antibiotics through fermentation.

The plant will help satisfy Cuba's needs to take industrial application of technology to a large scale. The application of technology, which has only been developed at the laboratory level, will also help save currency through a broader use of our country's natural resources.

Pan American Health Seminar Begins 1 Feb

FL020025 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2034 GMT 1 Feb 88

[By Jose Oliveros]

[Text] The first Latin American seminar on the role of women in community health programs began today at the theater of faculty No 1 of the Higher Institute of Medical Sciences in Santiago de Cuba. PCC Politburo members Vilma Espin and Esteban Lazo attended the seminar along with the Guatemalan First Lady Raquel Blandon de Cerezo.

Public Health Minister Julio Teja pointed out at the opening that women need to be involved in the efforts to reach the goal of health for all by the year 2000 which the WHO has set forth. He noted that Cuban women have played a decisive role in this struggle. He also referred to Cuba's progress in health at the individual, family, and group level.

(Joan Jones), representative of the Pan American Health Organization [PAHO], noted the need to struggle to have a healthier society. Dr (Eglan Abrahms), regional coordinator of PAHO programs, also spoke at the event. (Abrahms) stated that women's life conditions are not the best suited for the development of the role which would allow them to be recognized universally as health promoters in the community.

At this moment, the approximately 150 women from Spanish-speaking countries who are participating in the seminar are discussing the main report.

Officials Visit Segundo Frente

FL050258 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], and Dr Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, director of the Pan American Health Organization, have paid tribute to martyrs of Segundo Frente in Santiago de Cuba Province. Joined by the participants of the first seminar on women's role in community health programs, the leaders visited the Frank Pais Pioneer Palace. There, the youngsters performed and showed them their various interest circles.

The delegates to the Latin American event, accompanied by Esteban Lazo, member of the PCC Politburo and first secretary of the party in the province, met with doctors, nurses, and patients of the rural hospital, polyclinic, nursery, and several family doctors consultation offices in this municipality located in the mountains, which has the lowest infant mortality rate in the territory.

Accompanied by Mr Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, wife of the Guatemalan president, Vilma chatted with educators of Los Serranitos child care center. She was also interested in the activities carried out by the FMC's block No four. The women, youths, and people of the Segundo Frente Municipality sent Army General Raul Castro their commitments to move forward in the development of livestock-agriculture and health projects.

Espin Closes Seminar

FL051630 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women, has closed the first seminar on the role of women in community health programs. This event in Santiago de Cuba was characterized by productive sessions. It was attended by representatives from 20 countries, including officials from international organizations.

The seminar's participants toured important locations in Segundo Frente in Santiago de Cuba. [passage omitted]

Havana Comments on New Health Services

FL031915 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] We are all very reassured by our country's health services. Every citizen knows that if he gets sick, he can go to the polyclinic or the hospital with the certainty that he will be properly attended to. In many cases, he has the doctor close by, whether near his residence or at his factory. Health services are continually improving, and new facilities are built and others expanded. We all think highly of the new health services such as the tests to prevent children with deficiencies incompatible with life from being born, the successful introduction of transplants, and the establishment of new research institutions.

We love life and applaud everything that is done to preserve and prolong it. New services are springing up in our efforts to make our public health system more

perfect. For the past few months, tests for the HIV virus, which causes the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, AIDS, have been included in the diagnostic tests routinely administered to patients hospitalized at all maternal and clinical-surgical hospitals. All persons treated for sexually-transmitted diseases are also tested, as are Cuban citizens returning from overseas and foreigners who remain in Cuba for long periods, with the exception of diplomatic personnel.

Our country has developed a battery of tests which makes it possible to perform the AIDS test on a large scale. In 1988, 7 million tests will be performed to detect AIDS carriers.

How much does this all cost? No one asks himself this question, because the cost simply cannot be measured. We Cubans know, as Che said, that the life of a single human being is worth a thousand times more than all the wealth of the richest man on earth.

Castro on Rectification, Waste of Resources

FL052218 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] We should be careful in the application of the rectification policy because some of its aspects will take us time; however, we must be exacting in complying with guidelines and not allow again the invention of formulas to flout these guidelines. This was said by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in closing a meeting in Havana of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security [CETSS]. The conferees discussed the tasks involved in the rectification process and this year's basic goals.

Fidel spoke at length on the chaotic economic situation created by erroneous concepts concerning the country's development. He recalled the serious situation certain work centers were experiencing such as the Guanabacoa ironworks and Vanguardia Socialista, and the terrible work in international tourism. He talked about the generalized lack of discipline and the need to enforce labor discipline. Commenting on the rectification measures underway which are bearing fruit for the party and government policy, the commander in chief cited the model performance of the minibrigades and the Blas Roca contingent.

Fidel was informed of the methods to guarantee the revision of norms which generated enormous payments though most places did not produce enough or work the established 8 hours a day. He strongly criticized the waste of resources because of false concepts about the organization of the economy and because of ignorance about the value and cost of the projects, as well as arbitrarily fixed prices to falsely show profitability where none existed.

After learning of the CETSS' efforts to end inflated payrolls and to rationalize tasks and resources with the introduction of multi-assignments, Fidel recalled the overstaffing in the hospitals and the successful struggle to reduce this personnel. He stressed that cutting and rearrangement of staffing will not mean that workers will become unemployed, as was the case under capitalism, because measures are being implemented to relocate the surplus workers.

Carlos Aldana on Media Role, Current Efforts

FL081415 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] The third information seminar on mass communications in Havana Province has ended after 2 days of sessions in this capital. Delivering the closing address, Carlos Aldana, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat, said that the Cuban media's fundamental role is to respond to the demands and needs of the population. He then cited the efforts to free ourselves of incorrect policies that do not legitimately belong to the press. These are the result of certain distortions such as attempts at homology [as heard] in the attention paid to the state organs. He concluded: In socialism, we conceive information as a way to govern.

Top party leaders in Havana Province gave exhaustive reports at the meeting on all areas of activity in the province last year and the prospects for this one.

Expensive Goods Now Sold on Credit

FL011758 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1405 GMT 1 Feb 88

[From 'Talking to the Consumer' section of 'Morning Magazine' by Alberto Pozo] txt
[Excerpt] Thursday is Commerce Worker's Day. A good way to [words indistinct] first of all, is that the magazine, so eagerly awaited by consumers, is on the stands with a number of very interesting reports. In anticipation of another important date, 14 February, it devotes its two center pages to that time we are all waiting for. You will learn about the availability of flowers, which at times have been in short supply. You can see which nurseries are offering the flowers,and how they are selling them. Of course, you can also see everything that's in the stores.

Let me tell you as well that there is a report which has caused a lot of public interest. I am referring to the fact that some electric home appliances can now be purchased on credit, such as several kinds of television sets and some furnishings. You can see this yourselves in the parallel market stores. It is very convenient for those who want to buy an electric fan. The Chinese Watson, for example, costs 600 pesos and you don't always have that amount of cash in hand all at once. Well, now you can buy it on credit. The same thing applies to refrigerators and television sets. The Polish-made television sets and some imported furnishing, for instance.

This is good news because now everybody can buy these higher-priced products. [passage omitted]

Credit Items Detailed

FL081230 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1458 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The Domestic Trade Ministry has announced that the new items which may now be purchased on personal credit include Sanyo table fans at 450 pesos, (Wason) table fans at 600 pesos, and (Predon) table fans at 425 pesos—all of them the 12-inch size model. The following furniture may also be purchased on personal credit: wicker living room sets made in Vietnam and costing 625 pesos each, (Rina) bedroom sets at 2,000 pesos, and (Vlastadock) bedroom sets at 1,600 pesos. The latter two are Soviet made. Another item is the Radiotecnica stereo record player, model 301, distributed only in Havana and costing 495 pesos.

Haiti

Bomb Explodes at Drivers Union; No Casualties

FL081830 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] A bomb exploded over the weekend at the headquarters of the Independent Drivers Union [of Carrefour]. No one died in the explosion, but the bomb caused much material damage. We met with the president and with a member of the union's executive committee, Jacques Pierre and Edgard Louis. They will tell us more about the explosion.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] There was a strike Saturday. Because we are independent, we cannot strike without valid cause. Because, in my opinion, there was no reason for the strike, I had assembled all my drivers both in the provinces and in the capital—all over—and told them they had to work.

Indeed, they did work Saturday. We were so successful in breaking Saturday's strike that in the evening I heard it said that all the drivers who worked during the strike day were Tontons Macoutes.

During the night, at around 0145, I heard shooting. I don't know what kind of weapons were used, but they made lots of noise. At around 0200, there was an explosion, a very big explosion. Everyone in the neighborhood heard it. I think it was probably even heard in the center of Port-au-Prince.

Before this, I heard it said that we were all Tontons Macoutes. But how can we be Tontons Macoutes and destroy our own houses? That doesn't make any sense. So I say that now we have a president, we are asking that there never be any more strikes called.

[Reporter] Did the bomb cause (?a lot of) material damage?

[Speaker] [Passage indistinct] There was no one sleeping at the station, but there were people [words indistinct].

[Reporter] And it happened at what time?

[Speaker] At around 0200. They were going to blow up the Carrefour bridge.

[Reporter] What advance warning did you have? I mean, did you already have the impression they were going to do this?

[Speaker] They had already threatened us. They had threatened to blow up the Carrefour bridge.

[Reporter] And what is the position of the Independent Drivers Union? Perhaps the president can state the union's position? Or perhaps you, Edgard Louis? What is the Independent Drivers Union's position after this criminal act?

[Speaker] Well [passage indistinct] and there will never be another strike in Haiti again. There won't be any strikes at all. To go on strike they will have to go over our dead bodies. We offer drivers all kinds of advantages. When we collect money from them, we don't go off and spend it. It is for them, so they can use it to pay for traffic tickets when they receive them. [end recording]

That was the association, the Union of Independent Drivers, after a bomb exploded at their headquarters Saturday night at around 0200, causing much material damage.

Grenade Thrown at Catholic School in Capital

FL082315 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] At approximately 0330 GMT yesterday, a grenade was thrown into a classroom of a school run by the Sacred Heart nuns. The school is located in the Turgeau section of Port-au-Prince. The classroom, which faces Avenue M, served as a dining hall long ago. Cooking classes are taught there now.

The grenade destroyed a few tin sheets in the room, and shattered a neon light. The blast also produced a large hole, and a number of tin sheets were burned.

We met with some of the nuns, who showed us the top of the grenade, which they found in the classroom. There was evidence of the explosion on the walls, as well. Several people in the area said they heard the blast, which was loud and left the odor of sulphur in the air. They see this act as an attempt to intimidate school officials.

There was also an explosion Saturday evening at the headquarters of the Independent Drivers Union, which was formed on 3 January. The blast was apparently caused by a Molotov cocktail thrown at the building. According to AFP, the explosion left a hole some 40 cm wide in a concrete slab.

There were no casualties in either attack, and AFP notes that the police have launched an investigation of both incidents.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Condemns Party Efforts To Unseat Him

FL081952 Bridgetown CANA in English 2224 GMT 5 Feb 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 5, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson on Friday condemned renewed efforts within his ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) to unseat him and declared he would take appropriate action as the situation unfolded.

The party is governed by a democratic constitution. There's no need for plotting and internecine warfare, he told newsmen. Robinson commented after word leaked here that 107 NAR members, who said they represented 21 of the 33 NAR-controlled constituencies, met at a central Trinidad trade union site last weekend and discussed the possibility of ousting Robinson. Those attending said it was the second of meetings by a caucus of concerned members who were worried about the state of the country, Robinson's handling of national problems, and the lack of action on promises in the party's December 1986 general elections manifesto. The meeting, to which people had been invited by word of mouth only, did not make any formal decision except to meet again at a time not yet arranged.

Asked about the latest development, Robinson told reporters on Friday: We have democratic procedures in the party and in the country. I was elected by the party, I was elected by the country, governed by a Constitution, a democratic Constitution. Robinson attributed the latest unrest to the residual culture of the opposition politics of plotting that had affected his ruling party.

The party will act and I, as leader of the government, will take appropriate action, Robinson added. It disturbs me in the sense that it's not good for the country. I think everybody should put the country first and at this time, that should be the paramount consideration. Robinson checked open feuding late last year by calling for the resignation of the entire Cabinet and reorganising his one-year-old administration.

The sources said those at the Sunday meeting accused Robinson of consulting less and less with party members and more with a few select ministers and high level technocrats. The radical John Humphrey, who lost his post as works minister in the 1987 reshuffle, told reporters Friday that he had torn out the copy of Robinson's picture on the fly-leaf of the NAR manifesto document to a round of thunderous applause at the Couva meeting.

Internal rumblings within the party had been taking place through much of 1987, but exploded publicly during a trip abroad by Robinson during October. The public criticisms had come from ministers who were formerly members of the opposition United Labour Front (ULF) of which external affairs Basdeo Panday was leader. The ULF merged with three other parties to form the NAR, with Panday becoming one of the two NAR deputy leaders.

To deal with the unrest, the ruling party had set up a special 11-member committee to interview people at all levels of the party to find out what its real problems were. The committee reports back to the next council meeting at the end of February. Some party members said they wanted to hear whether the accusations levelled at Robinson also emerged in the report.

I dont know why these guys had to meet so soon on the issue. At least they could (have waited) for the report or Ash Wednesday (after Carnival) before doing something, one NAR source said. Another party source said: The concern of the meeting was that Robinson must be removed both as leader of the NAR and as prime minister. No decision was taken as to how this should be achieved...what was decided is that we will continue what we started until the objective is realised.

NAR Dissension Causes Government Shakeup

Hudson-Phillips on 'Bickering'

FL081958 Bridgetown CANA in English 0007 GMT 7 Feb 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 6, CANA—A deputy leader of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) on Saturday night issued a strongly worded statement warning that internal bickering within the 13-month ruling party had gone too far. One cannot remain in the government and be openly critical of government policies and cabinet colleagues, Hudson-Phillips said in the statement distributed by an official of the prime minister's office.

Hudson-Phillips, one of the NAR deputy leaders, left the former ruling Peoples National Movement (PNM) in 1973 and formed his own party in the early 1980's which later merged with three others to form the NAR which won power in December 1986. His statement comes a week after dissidents within the party held a meeting complaining about NAR leader and Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson on the eve of finalisation of an internal report into the party's problems. Hudson-Phillips was being toted by some attending the session as an acceptable replacement for Robinson—as a founder member of the NAR which represents a number of business and race interests.

There have been attempts in certain quarters to suggest that I can be promoted as an alternative leader in some new re-grouping of the party, Hudson-Phillips acknowledged. Let me make it quite clear to one and all I cannot be used as part of any plot to destablize the existing leadership and subvert the basic principles on which our party was founded, the former PNM attorney general said. What certain people are now doing is a betrayal of that trust and faith, [said] Hudson-Phillips, who has declined a government post but wields great influence. Wherever I have travelled abroad, citizens and non citizens have been expressing deep concern about what is going on in the NAR. It is clear that the country's image and reputation, regionally and internally, is being severely tarnished, he said.

The NAR bickering had died down somewhat after a cabinet reshuffle last November when Robinson dropped his most outspoken minister John Humphrey. He also demoted and removed portfolios from other ministers belonging to a faction with ties to deputy leader Basdeo Panday and who had voiced criticism against his leadership.

Hudson-Phillips said in his statement, regarded by some commentators as an expression of support for Robinson—that party members should see the maneuvres for what they were. This nonsense has gone too far. We must stop it now, Hudson-Phillips said.

Panday Expects Firing

FL082007 Bridgetown CANA in English
1457 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 8, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's foreign minister and one of the two deputy leaders of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) here, Basdeo Panday, has hinted that he expects to be fired from the cabinet soon. His comments at a public meeting here Sunday came as Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson prepared to move against persons inside the NAR who he said were plotting his removal.

What is all this talk about plotting? Plotting for what? To gain what? To become prime minister? I do not even want to be a minister. I do not want that, Panday told his audience in central Trinidad.

Panday, who attended a January 31 meeting of so-called NAR dissidents concerned about Robinson's rule, told his constituents he did not expect to be in office much longer because he was seen as rocking the boat...Ministers should not rock the boat. If we do, we lose our ministry, said Panday, the former leader of the Indian-based United Labour Front (ULF) which merged with three other parties to form the NAR two years ago.

I was not born a minister. I was born in the canefield and I would not die if I am not a minister. In fact, it has now become a source of tremendous embarrassment to me but, if I see another PNM emerging, I do not want to be a minister, Panday said. I will never be a party to a one-man rule of discrimination and injustice where people are kept in a state of uncertainty.

Panday spoke as Robinson aides hinted at a second cabinet reshuffle two months after he first asked his cabinet to resign and reappointed the same team except for one radical ULF minister, John Humphrey. Panday told the crowd that Humphrey was now a free man and he too expected to be a free man soon.

Also criticising Robinson at Sunday's public meeting was Trevor Sudama, one of Robinson's two junior finance ministers. He said the prime minister's declaration last Friday that he would discipline party dissidents showed what he called a dictatorial mentality. The prime minister has no authority to do that and he has no authority to threaten people either. This is a democratic party, we assume that has certain structures and processes, Sudama said on the subject of being kicked out of the party.

Sudama confirmed his participation in the January 31 meeting. We are not plotting. We are planning to run the country, to build the country, to establish small scale industries. We are discussing the possibility of getting experts to talk to us on improving the economic state of the country, Panday said.

Panday, also leader of the main sugar workers union, currently on extended leave from this post whilst serving as minister, told sugar workers now fighting for an overdue backpay to go ahead with their battle. I am giving you total freedom to go into the struggle. Do not let me be a source of embarassment to you, Panday told members of the union. As a matter of fact, I might be in the crowd too, as I might be relieved of all responsibilities shortly. I was not born a minister. I was born in the sugar fields.

New Ministers Named

FL082145 Bridgetown CANA in English
2134 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 8, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson on Monday fired three ministers in his government and named two new ones, amid renewed strife in his ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction government.

An official statement this afternoon said that President Noor Hassanali, on Robinson's advice, had revoked the appointments of External Affairs Minister Basdeo Panday, Junior Finance Minister Trevor Sudama, and Public Utilities Minister Kelvin Ramnath. Government Senator Dr Sahadeo Basdeo was named as Panday's successor and NAR General Secretary Dr Dhoe Temarie as minister without portfolio. Ramnath's post, created last November was dismantled, with Selby Wilson remaining as the lone jr finance minister in the Ministry of Finance, the government statement said.

The Telecommunications Division that used to be part of the Ministry of Public Utilities will now fall under the Prime Minister's Office and the remainder of the portfolio—including water and the state bus company goes to the Settlements Minister Pamela Nicholson. Her ministry will now be known as Public Utilities and Settlements. Government backbencher Arthur Sanderson was named parliamentary secretary in Nicholson's ministry.

The statement from the Prime Minister's Office said the changes took immediate effect. It made only passing reference to the trouble in the NAR, saying that the prime minister briefed the president on the events leading up to the advice of the new appointments. Robinson last week accused elements within the NAR of plotting his ouster and promised to deal firmly with the situation.

His comments came after word leaked that NAR dissidents met secretly January 31, expressed grave concern about Robinson's policies and style of government and considered action against him. Panday, whose United Labour Front (ULF) joined with three other parties two years ago to form the NAR, Sunday night hinted that he expected to be dismissed, but rejected Robinson allegations that colleagues were plotting against him.

We are not plotting. We are planning to run the country, to build the country, to establish small scale industries. We are discussing the possibility of getting experts to talk to us on improving the economic state of the country, Panday said. There was no immediate reaction to Monday's Cabinet reshuffle.

Statement on Changes

FL082158 Bridgetown CANA in English
2148 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 8,CANA—Following is the full text of Monday's government statement announcing the dismissal of three cabinet members:

This morning Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson advised President Noor Hassanali to revoke the appointments of Mr Basdeo Panday and Mr Kelvin Ramnath as ministers. Mr Panday held the portfolio of minister of external affairs and international trade, while Mr Ramnath held the portfolio of public utilities.

The prime minister also advised the president to revoke the appointment of Mr Trevor Sudama as minister in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy.

The president was advised by the prime minister to make the following appointments to the Cabinet:

—Senator Dr Sahadeo Basdeo, a lecturer in history at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, as minister of external affairs and international trade and:

—Dr Bhoe Tewarie, member of Parliament for Caroni East as cabinet minister without portfolio. Dr Tewarie is general secretary of the National Alliance for Reconstruction.

The prime minister also advised the president to add the portfolio of public utilities to that of settlements with Ms Pamela Nicholson as Minister of Settlements and Public Utilities, and to appoint Mr Arthur Sanderson, member of Parliament for Fyzabad, as parliamentary secretary in that ministry.

The subject of telecommunications has been removed from the Ministry of Settlements and Public Utilities and placed under the prime minister's office.

The prime minister's meeting with the president took place at 11.30 a.m. and lasted over an hour during which time the prime minister briefed the president on the vents leading up to the advice on the new appointments. (end of text)

Panday Relieved With Dismissal

FL080039 Bridgetown CANA in English
2351 GMT 8 Feb 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 8, CANA—Basdeo Panday, fired as External Affairs minister on Monday, says he is relieved to be out of government. Panday told CANA on Monday night that he plans to go back to his legal practice and leadership of his sugar union, has no intention of quitting the ruling party, and will do all in his power to avoid a racial split in the country.

Panday, one of the two deputy leaders of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) spoke hours after Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson advised President Noor Hassanali to revoke his appointment and that of two of his supporters in government. This followed increased criticism of Robinson's leadership style by members of Panday's former political party.

I would say yes, Panday said when asked if he was relieved to be out of the bickering within the 13-month-old administration. Being a member of Cabinet, I would see things going wrong and I couldn't speak...I now feel relieved because my life has been one of struggle, he added, speaking from his South Trinidad home.

Panday meets with the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union (ATSGWTU) to discuss returning as president general from which he had been on leave. If they are prepared to terminate my application for leave...I will return, Panday said.

Asked about the possibility of leaving the NAR to which he brought the single largest group of seats, Panday said: I am a member of the party and shed a lot of blood,

sweat, and tears to form it and I will remain. Panday said that if moves were made to remove him by disciplinary action, the matter would then be out of his hands.

Questioned as to whether the revoking of his appointments and those of two other members of his former United Labour Front (ULF) would mean a racial split in Trinidad and Tobago, Panday said he hoped not. I shall do all in my power to ensure this does not happen, added Panday, who is of Indian descent.

Panday said on Tuesday he would clear out his office at Kanowsley—the home of the External Affairs Ministry—and by Wednesday he expected to be back at his law chambers in South Trinidad. Panday formerly shared chambers with human rights lawyer Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj and had never really moved out from the San Fernando site. I still have the keys to there as well as the President General's office...I haven't lost them, Panday chuckled.

Panday spent his final day as a minister touring export-related companies in South Trinidad and visiting fishermen complaining about problems with Venezuelans in the south coastal village of Cedros. He said he knew nothing about the revoking of his appointment until someone in Cedros heard the news on local radio and came to tell him. I will continue my struggle, Panday said.

Hadeed Resigns NAR Public Relations Office

FL082133 Bridgetown CANA in English
1541 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 6,CANA—Businessman Gerry Hadeed has resigned as the public relations officer of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) amidst press reports which drew attention to contracts awarded to his company whilst he was serving as a party officer. Hadeed, who had first called for an investigation into contracts awarded by state bodies to insurance companies, said in a letter to NAR chairman Herbert Atwell that his resignation was based on the allegations and innuendos against his activities as insurance broker.

Hadeed's Insurance Company, Industrial Risk Consultants (IRC), obtained the contracts to provide insurance for state owned airline BWIA, and later in 1987 during the first year of the NAR administration obtained 11 of the 31 new contracts on offer for state companies.

If there is an iota of doubt about my credibility I must submit my resignation as the public relations officer of the party until such time that the allegations made against me are cleared beyond a doubt, Hadeed said. What distresses me most is that we, as a people, have not yet been able to come to terms with the fact that honesty and hard work are viewed as an achievement for others to aspire to. We are more prone to destroying one another's character, he added.

Costa Rica

Foreign Minister Says No 'Excuses' for Managua

PA060101 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] The Esquipulas process is not dead, as Volio Jimenez has affirmed. Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto does not share the opinion of former Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez concerning the 15 January 1988 joint presidential declaration and the entire Esquipulas process. What that declaration in fact demanded was that a series of actions take place as soon as possible, which has not occurred; the general amnesty that the Sandinists agreed to did not occur. However, with the suspension of aid to the contras, there are no more excuses, and now all those commitments must be met, Madrigal Nieto stated.

Democratic governments must insist that the Sandinists comply. Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto believes that all Central American governments and all democratic governments should insist that the Sandinists comply with the democratization process that was agreed upon. Now the Sandinist government has the opportunity to demonstrate that the only thing which prevented it from initiating the democratic process was the aid provided to the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. As part of the regional action that will take place, there is the meeting of the executive commission that is scheduled for next week.

The Sandinists have no excuse for delaying the democratization process. The U.S. Congress' rejection of aid for the RN eliminates all the excuses that the Sandinist government had for not initiating the democratization process, said Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto. He added that now that U.S. aid to the contras has been suspended, Soviet and Cuban aid to the Sandinists should also be suspended. In this regard, he noted, every effort should be made to advance the peace process.

The Central American foreign ministers should meet as soon as possible. The meeting of the Esquipulas executive commission, which was established by the Central American foreign ministers, should be held as soon as possible, Madrigal Nieto commented. The joint declaration resulting from the presidential summit of 15 January 1988 entrusted the foreign ministers with the task of establishing the mechanisms for the verification process, to fulfill the peace plan commitments. Therefore, he added, I must say that the executive commission should meet on February 16 and 17 [words indistinct].

The foreign minister said that following the resolution by the U.S. Congress, Nicaragua must take clear steps toward democratization, to not disappoint all those governments, entities, and persons who, in one way or another, helped prevent further aid for the contras. If the Sandinist government does not clearly demonstrate that it is opening the path toward democratization, it would be betraying the confidence entrusted in it to find a negotiated political solution. Madrigal declared that without this pretext, it is necessary for Nicaragua to declare a general amnesty, to resume democratic talks with the domestic opposition, and to seriously begin work on constitutional reforms.

Briefs

New PLN President Chosen

Dr Walter Coto has been elected the new president of the ruling National Liberation Party [PLN]. [Summary] *[San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 25 Jan 88 p 4-A PA]*

El Salvador

FMLN, FDR Propose New Talks for 22 Feb

PA081851 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1645 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 8 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Today Salvadoran guerrilla leaders confirmed they have proposed to the government of Jose Napoleon Duarte that negotiations to reach a political solution to the civil war in El Salvador be resumed on 22 February.

The FMLN General Command and the FDR Executive Committee proposed that the two commissions for dialogue, which are comprised of government and rebel representatives, resume talks on 22 February.

According to a local radio station, the guerrillas presented the new proposal yesterday to Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, the representative of Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, the traditional mediators in the talks between the government and the FMLN-FDR.

In his homily on Sunday, Bishop Rosa Chavez announced that Rivera y Damas, who is in Europe, had informed him that there would be a new proposal for dialogue, but that he did not wish to elaborate further.

This morning, FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo confirmed from Panama that there had been a new proposal to resume the dialogue.

This time, the new proposal states there is a need to include as observers representatives of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia), and the Support Group (Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina), as well as representatives of the nation's political and social sectors. [passage omitted]

President Duarte has not yet indicated his position concerning this second rebel offer to resume the talks. [passage omitted]

Ungo on Need for Dialogue

PA082220 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Report by David Martin Rivas on telephone interview with FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo on 8 February in Panama City]

[Text] The Salvadoran insurgent fronts today proposed to the government of President Jose Napoleon Duarte that talks seeking a political solution to the armed conflict in this country be resumed on 22 February. In a telephone interview today from Panama City, political leader Guillermo Manuel Ungo stated that the 8-point proposal is signed by the FDR Presidency and the FMLN General Command. The new joint proposal specifically suggests 22 February as the date for resuming the work of both commissions created following the dialogue between the two parties on 4 and 5 October in the Apostolic Nunciature in San Salvador.

According to FDR President Guillermo Ungo, the fronts propose that this new dialogue involve representatives of the diverse political and social sectors of the country as participants, and of the Contadora and Support Groups as observers.

[Begin Ungo recording in progress]...holding new elections is merely a way of prolonging the war, and it does not represent an alternative to actually solving the crisis. The grave crisis besetting our country demands that Salvadorans act responsibly, with political will, to carry out firm and decisive acts to safeguard the national interests. The Salvadoran Government is obliged to take effective steps. It is immediately imperative that:

1. The death squads be dismantled, and the actual perpetrators as well as the masterminds of assassinations and disappearances—including those committed since the signing of Esquipulas II, especially the assassination of Herbert Anaya Sanabria—be arraigned.

2. Article 2 of the amnesty law be repealed, as demanded by the Human Rights Institute of the Central American University and the Christian Legal Aid Office.

3. Resupply of the counterrevolutionary bands in Nicaragua from the national territory be suspended.

4. The National Reconciliation Commission, CNR, be reorganized to incorporate representatives of the real political opposition in order to strengthen its reconciliating mission, as recommended by the CIVS [Verification and Follow-Up Commission].

5. Decree 618, which violates the right of defense and permits the detention and illegal arrest of persons, be repealed.

6. Dialogue with the political parties, labor organizations, institutions, universities, trade unions, etcetera be opened in a serious and responsible manner.

7. The agreements on disarmament and security set forth in the draft Contadora document for peace and cooperation in Central America be fulfilled effectively and without delay.

8. The work of the dialogue commissions composed of delegates from the government and our fronts be resumed.

The extension of democratization and respect for our sovereignty, the improvement of our standard of living, and total respect for human rights can be achieved only through an active struggle and the unification of all the democratic and patriotic forces.

Our fronts are channeling their efforts into building a national consensus of all these forces to find an overall political solution to the conflict and to overcome the country's crisis in a dignified and independent manner.

In this same vein, our fronts have again proposed to the Salvadoran Government the resumption of work of the commissions, the cease-fire process, and other contents of Esquipulas II, so that they meet simultaneously on 22 February 1988 in a mutually agreed upon place.

This new initiative will be channeled through mediator Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, and we hope to obtain the active participation of the diverse political and social sectors of the country, as observers of the work of these commissions. We also seek such participation so efforts to achieve peace will contribute to attaining specific goals that will avert a further escalation of the war and reduce its economic, political, and social impact.

We have proposed that representatives of the Contadora and Support Groups participate in the meetings, so that their efforts to contribute to peace and detente in the region can bear fruit.

We issue an appeal to the international community to redouble initiatives and efforts to achieve a just and durable peace in our country. We issue an appeal to our people to increase their struggle, mobilize themselves, demand the implementation of the Esquipulas II accords, and demand the renewal of a dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and the FDR-FMLN. [end recording]

The proposal also indicates that after reviewing the report issued by the CIVS of the Esquipulas II agreement and the declaration signed by the five Central American presidents at the 15 January summit in San Jose, Costa Rica, the fronts reassert that the contents and goals of the regional peace plan represent a favorable framework for a political solution to national conflicts.

The text of the proposal adds: Unfortunately, the Salvadoran Government has not contributed to fufilling the overall contents of the Esquipulas II accords for attaining peace. Quite the contrary, the Salvadoran Government has daily increased the war and the violations of human rights. The Salvadoran rebel document states that Duarte is handling at will the contents and goals of the agreement, trying to create an image that allows him to seek the opportunity and support to develop a counterinsurgency strategy.

This morning, Guillermo Ungo also stated that the dialogue proposal was presented yesterday to Salvadoran Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, with the authorization of Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, who is currently in Europe.

Government: Talks 'Unlikely'

PA082023 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1814 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 8 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Roberto Viera, Salvadoran minister of culture and communications, today stated that the guerrilla proposal that talks be resumed on 22 February in a new attempt to seek a political solution to El Salvador's civil war will "not be answered" by the Salvadoran Government.

The government spokesman noted this morning that it is "unlikely" that a new round of talks with the FMLN and the FDR will be held prior to the elections for deputies and municipal councilmen on 20 March.

In a news conference, Viera explained that the Salvadoran Government will only talk with political parties that are legally registered for the elections.

According to Viera, who is also a leader of the ruling Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the FDR, the political ally of the Salvadoran guerrillas, could have registered to participate in the elections, in which the 60 deputies of the Legislative Assembly and the 262 municipal councils will be chosen. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere, Viera announced today that he will leave the Ministry of Culture and Communications for 2 months to lead the PDC's campaign.

Viera stated that he might be replaced by Deputy Minister of Communications Eduardo Colindres, but added that the decision will be made by President Duarte.

Col Vargas on Election Boycott, Contra Aid

PA052148 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Report on statements by Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, chief of operations for Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff; date, place not given]

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, chief of operations for the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, today stated that the Armed Forces will guarantee honest elections.

As for the U.S. congressional vote against further aid for the contras, Vargas stressed that this endangers the peace efforts in the region.

Col Vargas commented on the guerrillas' boycott of the upcoming elections:

[Begin recording] It is an irrational attitude that reflects desperation. This attitude confirms the FMLN's strong abilities—not in the military area, but in terrorism. The FMLN seeks through terrorism to exert a psychological influence; it tries through terrorism to directly influence the community, because terror generates public paralysis, and a public paralyzed by terror only benefits the FMLN.

We believe that all Salvadorans should defend the democratic process, and that we cannot allow a bloody, violent, murderous, Marxist-Leninist minority to have control over us. We Salvadorans should face this minority with dignity and courage. Irrational attitudes are unacceptable. There should be no hesitation or unsound actions, because those would only benefit our common enemy: the FMLN. [end recording]

Col Vargas also expressed his opinion on the U.S. congressional vote against further aid for the Nicaraguan contras:

[Begin recording] It is said that those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it. I only pray to God that the contras' titanic effort will not turn out to be another tragedy, as was the Bay of Pigs. It is said that our own peace depends on the behavior of our neighbors. If our neighbors are totalitarians, interventionists, and internationalists, we will coexist with them; however, this will not be a harmonious coexistence but rather an armed coexistence. This armed coexistence resulting from the Nicaraguan Marxist-Leninist threat will require a larger investment in defense. We will thus be spending money that could have otherwise been used for development and attending to the needs of our people. [end recording]

As for recent bloody incidents against the civilian population, Col Vargas stated that these acts only contribute to the deterioration of our country's image. He added that the rebels use these incidents to further confuse the population with their Marxist-Leninist dialectic.

Cuban-Trained 'Terrorists' Now Said in Country

PA080005 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 1 Feb 88 p 10

[Text] According to military intelligence investigations, 10 terrorists trained in Cuba to carry out assassinations, kidnappings, and criminal acts against businessmen, officials, and politicians recently entered the country.

General Rinaldo Golcher, deputy minister of public security, said that according to information obtained by the Treasury Police, the individuals entered the country separately, coming from Nicaragua after having been in Havana.

Based on documents held by the authorities, the individuals' identities are being investigated so their trail can be followed. He also noted that all persons appearing on a list that was taken from the terrorists have been warned to take their own security precautions, in addition to those being offered to them by the Army.

Golcher stated that the criminals plan to sabotage enterprises and government works. Several special measures have therefore been taken.

The deputy minister requested the cooperation of the citizens. This is because without it, he declared, it would be impossible to locate the areas where meetings are held to issue instructions to the terrorist cells operating here.

Other military sources commented that the lack of a telephone line used exclusively for reporting subversive movements inhibits many people from revealing details about them, which delays investigations. El Salvador, they added, is one of the few countries that does not possess this convenience, which is unusual for a nation that is under attack.

Guatemala

Congress Asks U.S. To Receive Contras

PA061737 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] The Board of Directors of the Honduran Congress has requested the U.S. Senate to approve funds to permit the departure of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries from Honduran territory. This follows President Reagan's failure to obtain further funding for the anti-Sandinist cause.

This was reported by Congress Secretary Oscar Armando Melara Murillo, who said a note requesting aid to relocate the contras to the United States has been sent to the U.S. Senate.

Melara Murillo stated that if the United States decided to cut off the direct covert aid it was supplying the contras in their struggle to democratize Nicaragua, there is no reason why Honduras should have to continue to face diplomatic confrontations with the Sandinist government, as a result of contra incursions into Honduran territory when they are pursued by Nicaraguan Government forces. If the United States, particularly the Senate, has decided that the procedures outlined in Esquipulas II should be met to attain peace in Central America, then the United States should take in the Nicaraguans fighting the Sandinist government, he noted.

Melara commented that without economic aid, the contras will not be able to continue their struggle. He added that they should be able to live in a country where they are allowed to live with dignity.

If the U.S. Government does not respond to the request of the Honduran Congress, Melara declared, then the Honduran legislature will be asked to make a statement on the issue. This is because Honduras cannot bear the burden of the contras, whose struggle the U.S. Administration has always supported.

Military Chief on Contra Aid, 'Subversion'

PA071457 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Interview with General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, Armed Forces commander in chief, by unidentified reporter in Tegucigalpa on 5 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] We would like to learn your views on some vital issues. You have been accused of having asked the U.S. Government for aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution in a letter sent to U.S. congressmen last Tuesday [2 February]. What can you tell the Honduran people?

[Regalado] My colleagues in the Armed Forces and the Honduran people were distressed that an irresponsible reporter distorted a report and published it under a sensational headline. The letter's contents are far removed from that headline, however. If you had read that letter in the newspaper, you would have seen that it contains the concerns of the Armed Forces, which are responsible for the security of the Honduran people. In that letter, we did not refer to any request for aid to the contras. Our strategic goals are based on certain principles. As I said, the letter was directed more at asking the U.S. Congress to give primary consideration to security in Central America.

The meeting of Central American presidents in Costa Rica noted this concern, which is shared by the Armed Forces. And, like the Honduran people and those who are truly proud to live in a democratic system, the Armed Forces see that Central America's future lies with the U.S. Government. It is a great shame that the United States is now engaged in a major political campaign and that Central America has become a domestic party struggle. However, we we hope that Central America will continue to be an area of interest to the United States. We are not a sphere of influence for the United States, but we are an area of interest, for we are the backyard of U.S. security. Regardless of the administration or the party in power in the United States, it should always consider Central America vital to U.S. security interests.

To return specifically to that letter, journalists have their own views. I believe the reporter who said the Armed Forces were requesting aid for the contras did not interpret the letter correctly.

[Reporter] General, there is an important relationship between the Armed Forces and the domestic security of Honduras, which is something explained in international forums as well as at other meetings of the Central American presidents. There is concern in our country due to the Congress' rejection of aid to the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. There is the fear that when the RN fighters in Nicaragua run out of money, they will cross the border and seek refuge in Honduras, thus causing an unfortunate situation on our territory.

[Regalado] Yes, there is concern that those persons may return to Honduras. This is a concern of the Armed Forces. We are taking the necessary steps with the immigration office and issuing specific instructions, because Honduras is no longer able to accept refugees. I believe the U.S. legislators should consider helping us to get these refugees out of Honduras. There are some Central American countries that could help by accepting these refugees.

We already have plans on how to handle this situation. The Armed Forces are optimistic about the contras' not receiving aid, because the Esquipulas II plan is untarnished. I believe that after this vote by the U.S. Congress, the Nicaraguan Government will have no reason not to nor any pretext for not fulfilling the fundamental points of the Esquipulas II plan.

We are optimistic in this regard. I believe that since the House promised the Sandinists that it would cease aiding the counterrevolution, it must have asked for something in return. The international leader of democracy will not make a lot of friends by trying to support a communist government and trying to leave us a cancer here in Central America.

[Reporter] General, do you share the views of the Honduran Congress, which asked the U.S. Congress and Government to resettle these RN fighters in the United States?

[Regalado] I am totally in agreement. As I told you earlier, Honduras cannot accept any more refugees. Some people have said—[U.S.] Senator Dodd is one of them—that the contra problem is Honduras' problem. But Honduras has not financed or organized a resistance to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government. It is therefore a U.S. problem. I believe they have a moral commitment to those people. However, if the commanders have a fighting spirit and if the soldiers have deep-rooted, patriotic feelings, I believe they are ready to sacrifice anything to liberate a country. The moral concept of a patriot is a very specific, well-developed thing, and I believe those people will continue to fight. There will always be someone in the Western Hemisphere ready to help those people save their fatherland. Therefore, there are many things that must be analyzed.

[Reporter] General, there is a domestic topic that is of interest to the Honduran people. What are the Armed Forces and the public security forces doing jointly to counter the wave of violence in the country?

[Regalado] Of course, this is also an interesting matter. I had the opportunity to speak to the National Reconciliation Commission 2 days ago. They have a concept of reuniting Honduran society to face this violence. The Honduran Armed Forces told them we were in agreement, and that we were ready to use all means at our disposal, both human and material, to end this violence. We are doing our duty. We are reorganizing the public security forces, which I am sure that Hondurans are aware of. We are strengthening the regional commands, and assigning them lieutenant colonels who are totally qualified in military and civilian matters. We think this will help somewhat in combating subversion, because these officers are experts in those fields. We are not referring only to common crime but also to subversion, which creates violence. We are quite concerned because we have reports that persons intent on subverting public order are coming from Nicaragua. And, if you will allow me, I believe I have one of the latest reports here. I will list their names for the benefit of the Honduran people, so they can see that some things are not coincidental but are in keeping with an established plan. The results will soon be learned. If you will allow me, I will read the document.

[Reporter] Of course, General. The microphones are at your disposal.

[Regalado] Thank you very much. I hope it will not be thought that this is a witch-hunt, because it is a document that I will read for the benefit of the Honduran people. It is a report by prepared by military intelligence. The cell commanders of the Cinchoneros People's Liberation Movement in Atlantida Department—identified as Jorge Alexis Bonilla, Omar Martinez Herrera, Roni Bonilla, Jose Angel Martinez, Mario Orellana, Efrain Nunez, Visitacion Orellana, Humberto Rubi, and Daniel Orellana—have been sent by Nicaragua to establish a network of bases in several parts of the country. The places that have been identified as principal bases are Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, El Progreso, and Choluteca. Each base will consist of 25 men divided into groups of four to six. The groups will be given the mission of attacking electricity plants and key bridges, of assassinating high-ranking Honduran Armed Forces officers and government officials, and of kidnapping businessmen.

When the urban opeartions are completed, the Cinchoneros will launch a rural action plan beginning 15 April. They plan to directly and constantly harass the Armed Forces. The Cinchoneros are in the process of forming strategic bases in the mountainous region of the northern coast, specifically in Tivoli, Valencia, Vigia, Frijolillo, and La Flor. A guerrilla group is active around the Patuca Mountain region in Olancho Department, and it also operates in Yoro, Atlantida, Colon, and Cortes Departments. The group is trying to establish strategic bases.

The author of this urban and rural action plan is Juan Antonio Godoy, an engineer and leader of the Cinchoneros group. He returned recently to Honduras from Moscow, and he has coordinated the plan with Dagoberto Padilla Rush, Anibal Delgado Fiallos, Jose Maria Acevedo, and possibly Orlando Turcios. Our source reported that Turcios will probably return to Honduras from Managua in March to coordinate activities.

I have just read you one of the few reports we possess. We recently discovered some uniformed men in the El Tigal Mountains, where we have had some clashes with these criminals. The Armed Forces are therefore very concerned. We are attacking both common criminals and subversives. We do not know if those two problems are related, but the Honduran people can rest assured that the Armed Forces will guarantee their safety and protect them. We are ready to do everything within our powers to permit the people to enjoy the calm they deserve. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Blast Damages Electricity Plant

PA072130 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] An electricity generating plant was the target of a terrorist attack Tuesday [2 February] night in Guatemala City. Unidentified persons hurled three grenades and two Molotov cocktails against the Montserrat plant, which is located 2 km from the most important commercial center in Zone 7 of Guatemala City.

The explosive devices detonated in the transformer and generator section of the plant, causing a power outage in Montserrat colony, in part of La Florida colony, and in a sector of Zone 2. The plant is located at the entrance of Bosques de San Nicolas and at the end of Montserrat Dos, in the municipal jurisdiction of [word indistinct].

The explosions caused a fire that was quickly put out by the municipal volunteer firefighters. The fire did not spread, because the liquid exposed to the flames was diesel fuel that had spilled as a result of the explosions. [sentence as heard] The fire caused damage estimated at several million quetzals, according to a preliminary report by official sources.

Nephew of Deputy Defense Minister Murdered

PA080050 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2120 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Feb (EFE)—Rolando Pineda de la Cruz, the nephew of General Arturo de la Cruz, Guatemalan deputy minister of defense, was shot to death in Guatemala City by an unidentified group, the police reported today.

The sources stated that the victim, who worked for a state bank, arrived here on Friday [5 February] from Coban, Alta Verapz Department, with his bodyguard, Rene Morales Garcia, to transport money.

The police stated that Pineda and Morales stayed in a Guatemala City hotel, but when they went out on Saturday, they were attacked by a group of unidentified individuals.

During the incident, Pineda was shot to death, while his wounded bodyguard was able to seek refuge in the hotel. The bodyguard was then taken from the hotel to a medical center by volunteer firefighters, the police report noted.

The sources did not mention if the assailants stole the money the victim was carrying, the amount of which is unknown, or if the victim had already deposited the money at a state bank.

Legislators Reject Cerezo's Power Rate Bid

PA072200 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1230 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpt] President Vinicio Cerezo has decided to reduce the 40-percent increase in power rates to less than 25 percent. Meanwhile, measures broaching all aspects of the problem will be analyzed.

This is the basic content of the response the president gave to the parliamentary leaders and to leaders of the United Popular and Labor Action [Unidad de Accion Popular y Sindical—UAPS], as announced yesterday by government spokesperson Claudia Arenas:

[Arenas] "1. To suspend the 40-percent increase in power rates.

"2. To apply a percentage less than 25 percent to the tariff to cover the extra cost of energy and the possible future effects of the financial measures that will have to be adopted. This reduction in the percentage will be retroactively applied to benefit those who have already paid their bills.

"3. To discuss how this percentage can be implemented, to prevent to the maximum extent possible, the linked effects on the cost of living and its impact on the lower-income sectors."

Immediately after the government's formula was announced, parliamentary opposition leaders flatly rejected it. PNR [National Renewal Party] leader Carlos Gonzalez Quesada insisted on the points they presented to the president:

[Gonzalez] "We request the 40-percent increase be revoked retroactively so that the Guatemalan people will not have to pay a single cent.

"Second, there should be a budget cut [words indistinct]. It is very easy to find 60 million [currency not specified] in a multimillion budget of 3 billion quetzals, but it is not so easy to find the political will to do this.

"Third, we request the replacement of the INDE [National Institute of Electrification] president for disavowing an authority—for example, the human rights attorney; and because of his inability to find solutions that will not be a burden to the Guatemalan people."

Meanwhile, labor leaders also rejected the percentage reduction. They announced they will meet Tuesday with President Cerezo to reiterate their 6-point demand, which the UAPS considers to be fundamental in the negotiations with the government. Here is what what labor leader Luis Colocho had to say:

[Colocho] "We maintain our position. We learned of the president's proposal to reduce the cost for power to less than 25 percent, but we believe there should be another way out that will not burden the Guatemalan people with a tax increase."

[Reporter] "What will your position be when you go to see the president?"

[Colocho] "We took other proposals to the president, such as the redistribution of the national budget, the use of the money given as a deposit to the INDE for this purpose, and other alternatives that we will raise again."

[Reporter] "What will your stand be tommorrow at the negotiations with President Vinicio Cerezo?"

[Colocho] "The president has demonstrated he is willing to discuss the matter, and we trust he will be flexible toward our proposals."

[Reporter] "In other words, you propose the total revocation of the measure?"

[Colocho] "Yes, we maintain our position that there should not be any increase in power costs." [passage omitted]

TASS Opens Office, Soviet Relations Viewed

PA060440 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Feb 88 p 7

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 1 Feb—Alejandro Trouchine, chief of the recently opened TASS Soviet news agency office, stated that opening a Soviet diplomatic mission in Guatemala would not represent the establishment of relations because these have existed since 1944. He noted that this would simply mark the normalization of those relations.

Given the constant rumors that a Soviet Embassy would open in our country, EL GRAFICO consulted government and political sources. However, the result of those consultations is not too precise, but the opening of a Soviet Embassy in Guatemala might possibly take place in the long run. [passage omitted]

Trouchine pointed out that the nation is a center of information, and that information is of international interest. Consequently, TASS considers opening an office here to be positive, because it will be able to have a source of information.

Trouchine stated that one of the goals sought through opening a branch here is to open the country (Guatemala) to 280 million Soviets. He added that he will visit different places to learn how the people live, because it is not appropriate to see the situation only in black and white. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

FSLN Unaware of Peace Talks' Postponement

PA082350 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2206 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Managua, 8 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has not yet received official information concerning the postponement of the talks with the contras to arrange a cease-fire, and this afternoon it was awaiting "news from the administration" in the United States.

Today a news service dispatch from Miami reported the announcement by the armed resistance leadership of a delay in the cease-fire talks, which were supposed to take place with the Nicaraguan Government on 10 February.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Managua told ACAN-EFE that the government "remains interested in negotiating a cease-fire as quickly as possible to prevent further bloodshed."

"If we are advised (of a delay in the talks), then we will not attend, but we are prepared to hold the negotiations," added the source.

Before the results of the meeting of the rebel leaders in Miami were known, official sources in Managua had said that the date set to continue the talks in Guatemala City, between 10 and 12 February, "was being maintained."

They added that the Nicaraguan negotiating commission, which is headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco, was ready to leave for Guatemala.

The leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance said that the mediating commission of the church had agreed on the need to postpone the talks, to await the return of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who is still in Europe and is expected to return on 18 February.

Reiterates Scheduled Talks

PA090134 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2308 GMT 8 Feb 88

["Text" of Communique No 4 read by Manuel Espinoza Enriquez, press and information director for the Presidency; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] On 8 February, Msgr Bosco Vivas, auxiliary bishop of Managua and representative of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, announced that the cardinal, who is mediating in the cease-fire talks and is interested in participating in the talks to be held in Guatemala City, instructed Vivas to ask the counterrevolution to reschedule the upcoming meetings for 18, 19, and 20 February. Cardinal Obando y Bravo will have returned by those dates and will be able to take part in the meetings.

Minister of the Presidency Rene Nunez had asked Msgr Bosco Vivas to take the necessary steps so that Cardinal Obando y Bravo and the contras could meet on the scheduled dates of 10, 11, and 12 February in Guatemala City, taking into account the fact that as progress is made toward a cease-fire, there will be less suffering and death for the Nicaraguan people. As Cardinal Obando y Bravo has stated, the Nicaraguan people are suffering painful losses each day due to the unfair war that is being waged.

In talks this afternoon with Msgr Bosco Vivas, the Nicaraguan Government reiterated the condition that the talks be held on 10, 11, and 12 February. The government added that once Cardinal Obando y Bravo returns, he may resume the mediating role he has played since the talks in the Dominican Republic.

Moreover, it has been reported that contra spokesmen have publicly stated they are not interested in meeting on the scheduled dates. This is because they prefer war to peace, which is what a cease-fire agreement signed within the Esquipulas framework would require.

'Rightwingers' Violently Protest in Masaya

PA091430 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Subversive elements and provocateurs tried to create a night of violence in Masaya, following CIA orders to try to make the Esquipulas II peace agreements fail.

The people's response put them in their place after they stoned police offices and Sandinist youth offices.

Several of the provocateurs were arrested and will have to answer for their crime.

Rightwingers stoned [1-second break in reception] the police offices and the 19 July Sandinist Youth headquarters in Masaya. They partially destroyed the police offices and burned two vehicles.

The mass organizations initially mobilized 300 persons to confront them [1-second break in reception] shots with firearms that they had. At about 2300, the people responded by mobilizing approximately 800 persons while the provocateurs dispersed in different directions.

The people were in a state of alarm yesterday, and police authorities managed to establish order and to prevent further incidents. [passage omitted]

Contra Leader 'El Diablo' Reportedly Killed

PA081910 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1746 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Managua, 8 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—A high-ranking Nicaraguan military source announced today that the Nicaraguan Army has killed Julio Cesar Rizo, known as "El Diablo," in combat.

"El Diablo" was the chief of the Jorge Salazar No 1 Regional Command, which is perhaps the most important rebel group operating in the country's 5th Military Region.

Major Ramon Calderon Vindel, chief of staff for the 5th Region—which includes the departments of Boaco, Chontales, and part of the Atlantic coast—told ACAN-EFE that the armed clash in which "El Diablo" was killed took place on Sunday.

The confrontation, in which three other rebels were also killed, occurred in Cerro Grande, 40 km north of Santo Domingo, Chontales, in the center of the country.

The source noted that soldiers of the Farabundo Marti Battalion for Unconventional Warfare killed the four contras, including the rebel leader, in the armed clash.

Maj Calderon Vindel said that "El Diablo" and some 300 rebels were operating north of La Gateada, in the mountainous areas of central Nicaragua.

It is estimated that some 1,000 contras are active in the country's 5th Region.

Contra Attack on Passenger Bus Said To Kill 17

PA081256 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, a group of 20 counterrevolutionaries carried out one of the worst massacres against the Nicaraguan civilian population.

Official reports state that a (Robur) passenger bus was struck by the explosion of three U.S.-made Claymore antitank mines. This took place at 1630 yesterday in a place known as San Jose de la Podrida, 10 km northeast of Quilali, in Region 1.

After being struck by the three mines, which virtually destroyed the bus, the contras opened fire with rifles—and possibly also RPG's [rocket-propelled grenades]—on what was left of the bus and its 35 occupants.

The casualty count was as follows: 17 civilians, including several minors, killed instantly; and 18 injured, 4 of whom are in serious condition.

Last night, the towns of San Juan de Rio Coco, Telpaneca, and Quilali mobilized and carried out protest activities in the wake of this massacre, which was one of the worst committed by the mercenaries against the Nicaraguan people.

This criminal act reaffirms statements made yesterday by President Daniel Ortega at a news conference, when he said that the rejection of contra financing by the Democratic majority does not mean an end to the war against our people. One day before the vote by the U.S. House of Representatives, Reagan's paladins had killed 11 other civilians in Boaco Department in an open display of Reagan's criminal intentions.

The dead include agrarian reform technicians William Aleman, Rodolfo Castillo, Mario Raudes, Esteban Talavera, Genaro Zeledon, Sebastian Blandon, Santos Gonzalez, and Teresa Gomez; SMP [Patriotic Military Service] soldier Victor Zelaya; Esmeralda Poveda; Agustin Valdivia; 6-month-old Enrique Peralta; Jairo Barahona; and bus driver Juan Antonio Valle. The other four persons killed as a result of this reprehensible contra operation have not yet been identified.

Contras Reported To Attack Demonstration

PA081610 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0011 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry in Managua on 7 February]

[Text] The Defense Ministry reports that on 6 February, during a demonstration the people of Jinotega were holding against the warmongering policy of the U.S. Government, a counterrevolutionary fired a fragmentation grenade at the demonstrators. Six civilians were killed as a result of this criminal act, including 3 children; and 13 civilians were injured, including 5 children.

Those civilians killed are: Sara Amelia Martinez, 5; Marvin Castellanos, 10; Daniel Mairena, 5; Bayardo Picados, 24; Leonel Castilla, 17; Marta Cruz Garcia, 17. Those civilians injured are: Lucila Rodriguez, 6; Marlene Rodriguez, 7; Migdalia Valdivia, 7; Lester Martinez, 10; Milciades, 13—whose last name is unknown at this time; Bernardo Moreno Centeno, 14; Adilia Lopez Lopez, 14; Darlyn Gomez, 15; Dardin Castellanos, 16; Donald Rivera; Juan Moreno Delgado; Esmit Barahona; and Alan Gonzalez.

Managua, 7 February 1988

Public Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry

EPS Captures Redeye Missile, Other Materiel

PA060252 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 29 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] Another "Redeye" surface-to-air missile and other sophisticated military materiel were recovered by the BLI [Battalion for Unconventional Warfare] following a clash with mercenary forces 23 km northeast of Mulukuku, Matagalpa Department. Six contras were killed during the clash.

During a news conference, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Salvatierra reported that the clash occurred on Wednesday morning [27 January]. He added that the recovered materiel proves the EPS attacked the "Santiago Meza" counterrevolutionary regional command headquarters.

The high-ranking officer stated this is the first such rocket to be recovered this year, and reiterated that this type of weapon represents a danger for Nicaraguan and Central American aviation.

Out of Control [subhead]

Salvatierra said that according to military intelligence sources, many Redeye missiles that the U.S. Army gave to the contras are in the hands of mercenaries who are corrupt and out of control.

It is certain that due to this uncontrolled situation, several contra commanders have been selling rockets on the black market, Salvatierra noted. He added that "the U.S. Government, through Honduras, has delivered thousands of rifles to the contras, and this has permitted mercenary commanders to get rich selling them."

Technical Information [subhead]

According to reports, the Redeye has a range of 3.5 km, can reach an altitude of 1.5 km, is more than 1 meter long, and weighs 13.1 kg. The guidance system is infrared.

In addition to the surface-to-air missile, the Simon Bolivar Battalion seized a rocket-launcher, a PRO-32 tracer, and a 15-watt, U.S.-made SC-130 radio transmitter with a frequency range of from 2000 to 12000 kHz. The Sandinist force also captured an M-79 grenade launcher and a radio recorder.

Managua District Court Acquits James Denby

PA091241 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Rosa Argentina Morales, Managua second district criminal judge, has acquitted U.S. citizen James Jordan Denby on charges of disrupting Nicaraguan public order and security.

The resolution was read to Denby's lawyer Owyn Hodgson. Denby left for the United States last week after he was freed on bail. However, his lawyer noted that Denby will return to Nicaragua to try to recover his small aircraft, in which he was captured on 6 December 1987 near San Juan del Norte.

Ramirez, EEC's Cheysson Sign Aid Agreement

PA041437 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Feb

[Text] EEC High Commissioner Claude Cheysson has approved an agreement to improve the living conditions of cooperative members and to use the resources of Central America. The project will be strengthened with an additional donation—more than $3 million—from the Spanish Government. The $28-million project which aims at strengthening the cooperative movement in Central America was signed by the EEC high commissioner and Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez and his Central American counterparts.

[Begin Cheysson recording] [Words indistinct] through these mechanisms to help Central American countries improve their living conditions and political situation. [end recording]

Cheysson added that this cooperation represents the EEC's support for the Esquipulas peace efforts. Likewise, Dr Sergio Ramirez emphasized the importance of the joint economic efforts that will soon be exerted by the Central American countries.

[Begin Ramirez recording] We are fully convinced that this unique document [?of the EEC] will be the appropriate instrument for organizing the Central American countries into a front, and for meeting with the international economic and financial community, individual countries, groups of countries, financial institutions, credit institutions, and those in the political community who are willing to support the peace process in Central America. The economic position of the Central American community has been reviewed in this joint session, and we will defend our position. [end recording]

Cheysson discussed the prevailing expectations about the meeting to be held in Hamburg in late February between Central American and EEC representatives, at a time when it is necessary to strengthen the peace process. Part of Cheysson's agenda for his 2-day working visit to our country included meetings with a National Assembly delegation led by Commander Carlos Nunez and with Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of agricultural-livestock development and agrarian reform.

Shortly before his departure, EEC High Commissioner Claude Cheysson reasserted his support for the Central American peace process. He emphasized that the vice presidents' [words indistinct] meeting reasserted their participation at the next meeting, which will be held in Hamburg. Cheysson added that the EEC aid has no strings attached, and that it seeks to support development projects in the region—particularly to solve the nutrition problem [words indistinct].

Briefs

Supplies, Donations Arrive

The Ministry of Transportation has received 71 Mercedes Benz buses that arrived in Corinto from Argentina on 29 January. The buses will alleviate the transportation problem in the capital. A shipment of 5,250 bags of corn donated by Syria arrived at the port on 31 January, while the Soviet Union delivered 20,598 tons of gasoline aboard the ship "Mitrofan". [Summary] *[Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Feb 88 p 2 PA]*

Liberal Youth Launch Paper

The Liberal Party of Nicaragua Youth have issued their first issue of a weekly political newspaper that they call PROYECCIONES. The launching ceremony was held last night at the party headquarters and was attended by representatives of other youth organizations. [Summary] *[Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88 PA]*

Panama

More Reportage on U.S. Indictment, Response

Noriega at FDP Headquarters

PA090400 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0124 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP), at FDP Headquarters in Panama City on 8 February—recorded]

[Text] Citizens, mid-level commanders, officers: We have just listened to a basic resolution, which is a historic document defining the position of a group of officers who are the guarantors of the future members of our institution, and who have civilly and patriotically assumed a commitment during these critical times.

Today, out of respect for the Panamanian people, for honest citizens, national authorities, and the uniform we proudly and honorably have worn ever since we entered the military school, we are delivering this speech—which is not exactly a speech, but a real, institutional conversation and statement needed by the Panamanian citizens and people in general, by our friends, our friendly forces, and by those who share the destiny of leading a great, worthy homeland seeking its sovereign and independent solution, because they are the ones who are being attacked.

In dealing with the U.S. plan of aggression, a plan that utilizes scientific methods used in psychological warfare, we have to cope with the development of several policies that encompass aggression and economic encirclement. That plan is based on one single objective established by the powerful country of this continent: the U.S. presence in our territory, the maintenance of a colonialist and now neocolonialist state in our territory.

This systematic aggression is not fooling anyone. In 1952, a military man [late Panamanian President Jose Antonio Remon], aware of his own destiny, decided to struggle to revise the Canal Treaty and said: We want neither millions nor charity; we want justice. That man was a victim at that time of the same, parallel aggression; the same campaign to discredit that reached his wife, the first lady, Mrs Cecilia Pinel de Remon. She was humiliated at the customs office in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Even the papers of that time, which are part of the written psychological war controlled by late, historic figures, who had well-known historic plans, began to discredit her and called her Mrs Coca [slang for cocaine].

In 1970, which includes the generation of 1971, 1972, and 1973, up to the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, General Omar Torrijos Herrera, who as I said in a recent statement... [changes thought] In 1972, he called me when I was chief of the security department and told me he had a serious problem. He told me the Panamanian people's long, patriotic struggle for liberation was being invalidated with the dirty war of drugs.

Messages had already been received from several agencies. Threats and pressures had already been received and experienced, even against [former] Foreign Minister Juan Antonio Tack at Miami customs. In addition, a Panamanian citizen had been snatched from a baseball game at Balboa Stadium. While in the United States, a proposition was made to this Panamanian citizen—his name is (?Gil Gonzalez), and he made some remarks some time ago. He had to accuse Torrijos and get Torrijos involved in drug trafficking so he could get a reduced sentence and enjoy some privileges.

A similar proposal was made to other convicts. Craftily, they got Torrijos' brother, Monchi, indicted. Yet, Gen Torrijos, not Monchi, was the target. This case was unsettled right up to the end of the U.S. Congress' voting session. It hung like the sword of Damocles, threatening the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Many years after the treaties were signed, Monchi was no longer important, so they decided the indictment need not proceed.

Today, using the same methods and under similar circumstances, the United States denies and ignores its former position. The attorney who signed the 29 August 1986 indictment congratulated Panama for the country's efforts in the antidrug struggle. The congratulations was signed by Jeffrey Feldman and Leon B. Kellner.

This U.S. State Department document, which is in English, praises, for at least the first half of 1987, these actions when Panama is described on page 27. The document says...[changes thought] I am not familiar with the English language. Someone translate for me, please. The Panamanian Government has made significant progress in the first half of 1987. It has carried out many actions against drug trafficking, particularly regarding money laundering and transfers, as well as the destruction of chemical substances and cocaine.

These actions, the many letters here certifying 18 years of this work, and the repeated statements of this official U.S. organization's leaders regarding the struggle against drug trafficking constitute sufficient proof that these charges are not against a man, me, but against a worthy political position, against a specific geographical location the United States does not want to relinquish and wants to continue to hold through docile governments and an armed force subject to the U.S. doctrine of subjection, penetration, submissiveness, and unworthiness. These are not the Armed Forces that Torrijos designed. These are not the Armed Forces that I received as successor, for which we are here, and for which we will struggle. [applause]

The lawyers said this. For that reason, out of respect for the Panamanian people, out of respect for our friends, and out of respect for all the men we lead and for the uniform, we have the legal options. First, there are those that are open to every Panamanian citizen. We have the Attorney General's Office and we have submitted the documents there. We have asked for the appropriate investigation. Second, we have the international option, which is the one already being handled by a group of lawyers. These lawyers have called this a political circus. They concluded that justice—that the United States has used the administration of justice as a political weapon and has violated its own legal procedures.

Gentlemen: The U.S. strategy of war and maintaining its presence and its power has historically used different methodes. Teddy Roosevelt used his Big Stick policy and said: I took Panama. He took Panama. He imposed a treaty which all of us regretted and continue to regret. Afterward, the United States went on to use gunboat diplomacy during the Howard Taft administration to impose on the banana republics men who were docile to its strategy of power and submission. Later, they used the Hoover's Iron Fist policy. The Marines could land on the beaches of those governments that did not agree with or follow the policies of that sphere of power.

And now, going by that variant of adjusting its behavior to the evolution, maturity, and awareness of the Latin American peoples, the United States cannot continue using the policy of invasion, the Big Stick policy, or the Iron Fist policy. The international policies of the peoples have created defense systems. The peoples have learned to shout at the United Nations, the OAS, and the international forums of the Nonaligned. There is an

international consensus condemning aggressor nations and pushing them into the spotlight. Therefore, it became necessary to implement another form of aggression, which is more subtle, less open, and more creative. That is diplomacy through the legal system—by trial. They want to set in Panama a precedent for diplomacy by trial as a system so that no other Latin American leader can rise up to discuss, fight, and present his viewpoints because he, too, would then be put on trial.

However, to do these things they need the instruments. They need reincarnations of Philippe Buneau Varilla. They need the same sort of men who, at the start of the Republic, asked the United States to enter Panama so they could win an election. The U.S. President of that era and his Secretary [words indistinct] it was published. In fact, President Belisario Porras was going too. President Porras told these men, If we act today in Panama, you will no longer be sovereign. Any time the United States interferes in your domestic affairs you will be less sovereign and less the masters of your destiny.

But men exist, misery exists, and those Trojan horses remain here in Panama.

Ruben Dario Paredes, as you all know, just cannot get accustomed to conjugating the pluperfect tense of: I am. His inability to conjugate that verb in the past tense is what causes him to make those statements, which you very well mention in your manifesto. Therefore, we will not talk about him.

Jose Isabel Blandon—I do not know what his name is now because according to laws there is a change of identity. [sentence as heard] In 1968, when the government changes took place, he emerged like all those things that Torrijos wanted to (?join). However, we see that there was a historic moment, and figures from that moment are still alive, including Renato Pereira, the person who was in charge of student affairs at the national university. They went to tell Blandon that he had to leave his post in the deputy agriculture ministry [as heard] or the agriculture ministry because he was leading the institution toward anarchy. He was driving the country to agricultural chaos. This could adversely affect the things that had been achieved. Torrijos told one of the Rognonis to give Blandon $2,000 and then put him on a plane to Mexico. This actually happened. Later on he was sent to Spain, then he came back to Panama, and Torrijos gave him some political work to do. He was sent to do analytical work on the Central American region, which at that time had conflicts. He was sent to meet with different Latin American leaders, leaders of countries that were in conflict. He had an analytical, political mission...[changes thought] Oh, sorry, regarding the incident in the deputy agriculture ministry, which Blandon did not want to leave: The person who was to take over was Gerardo Gonzalez, and Blandon told Pereira that he would not turn his post over to Gerardo because Gerardo was a CIA agent. Could you imagine that, gentlemen?

So anyway, that was Blandon's role in Torrijos' times. Those analyses, those talks, which were not secret and which had nothing to do with strategies on what was to be done, were plans on how to achieve peace in Central America. And, gentlemen, he copied those cassettes we have and gave them to Elliott Abrams. The fight for dignity, the search for peace—in the hands of Elliott Abrams, to be manipulated as he pleases!

Gen Torrijos must be tossing and turning in his grave. Today, the world's revolutionaries must be mourning.

We believe that aspect of frustrated and traumatized leadership... [changes thought] Even many of its friends, its honest friends, still refuse to believe this happened. They refuse to believe that as time passes, there is a larger percentage, as experts describe it—the problem is that the bigger you make the issue, the more people are attracted to it.

Oh well, revolutionary history will also give its verdict. Now he lives in hiding in Oklahoma. Gentlemen, I am talking about Gabriel Lewis Galindo. Gabriel Lewis Galindo. So many beautiful things. His friendship with Torrijos has been very costly to our nation. The nation's resources have had to assume an enormous number of bad, traumatic deals at all levels. Why did he turn against the nation? Because he wanted to continue with those deals. He wanted to have the same privileges and influences with the new president and the FDP General Command.

When I was flying back from Japan with various officers, including [Lieutenant Colonel Leonidas] Macias, [words indistinct] a sale, highly interested in the sale of Contadora Island for his personal use, not for the benefit of the nation. This is how the man is. He is now the vehicle of the current aggression. Those men of [word indistinct] with a common denominator of high treason are the ones who say Torrijism was forgotten. It was forgotten, because they could no longer use or deceive Torrijos as they did. We do not respect those men. We can and we do respect the honest, conscious opponents, who might make statements we dislike, but at least they do not—they do not owe anything to the Panamanian treasury, and they did not take advantage of their position. We respect those opponents; the others we pity.

We understand—we again ratify this before the Panamanian people, whether they are with or against the government—and recognize the solution to the problem is the 1989 election, which the FDP as the guarantor of order and peace, will fully support. However, because this is a political, electoral process in which only politicians are involved, we urge politicians to say what they want, what they can do, what they can give, and what they can eliminate.

We will only be the vehicle for guaranteeing full support for the document called electoral code, or electoral system, or electoral procedure. The new government

chosen in the 1989 elections should be the one to set the rules of the game, fashion the type of organization that it considers most convenient, and organize the government's structures according to the country's situation in 1989. Whoever tries to use foreign systems to traumatize our own internal system makes a mistake. These foreign hands, this foreign presence of U.S. Embassy employees and U.S. Administration assistants here in our country, making plans to attain power, messes up the solution of our problem, which must be an exclusively Panamanian solution.

Consequently, we reassert: We again urge honest Panamanian politicians—meaning those in government and the opposition who handle politics and really know the art of politics—to sit down and prepare their work method. The Armed Forces pledges its support and guarantee that whoever wins the elections with the people's votes will be the next president of the Republic.

We believe the document issued by the Defense Forces mid-level commanders, who are the guarantors of the future members of our institution, and the strategic studies on the military bases are completely valid. The studies dealing with the Southern Command, which is a force stationed in a foreign land, belonging to a sovereign nation, doubling its number of men, weapons, and procedures—thus placing Panama in a disadvantageous position—show that it is a threat to national security. Therefore, we reject the Southern Command as a military leader or guide within our territory. We are not talking about formal relations. Those are not relations. The Southern Command is another aggression against Panama. The bases stationed in our territory are an obstacle to our social, economic, political, and jurisdictional development.

I talked with General John Galvin, a man of great experience on this subject, and we talked at length on the subject. We said that the military bases should be discussed, and that the issue should be subject to a surgical procedure [operadas], meaning that the issue should be cut open and analyzed by a strong—strong in the popular sense—and cognizant government. Those military bases cannot operate in the dark, defending only their own interests, acting as if they are a gift, being turned over or administrated without a proper strategic, political, and geopolitical analysis, without taking into consideration the Republic of Panama and its security.

The location of these bases cannot be realized, because from that moment on the Republic of Panama becomes a target on the list of U.S. enemies. From that moment on, it is using the Republic of Panama as an example of its policy on extracontinental decisions. Therefore, we must talk about those things. The Armed Forces discuss things and know things. Nothing can be hidden anymore from the Forces, because it is no longer a whistle-and-stick police force. It is an analytical and professional army. It says, well—Galeta Island, Galeta Island.

These are the observations of our mid-level commanders, the ones who will replace us and be responsible, for when 1999 arrives, the politicians attending the hearings [preceding word in English], the lunches, and the breakfasts at the U.S. Embassy today will not be there anymore. However, there will be lieutenants and captains who will be inspired, and are being inspired today, by all that happened in 1988. This is an unheard of procedural error they are committing with the United States. We must speak to the ones who will be in the generation of 1999. We have to debate with Panamanian youth, regardless of any political shading, openly and not covertly. We must search for a government that will not make a treaty for bases, a docile government, a spineless [amanuense] government.

We are not in that government, nor are we in that position.

Gentlemen, I want to reaffirm this point by saying that on 12 December 1985—note the year, there were no problems—Poindexter arrived in Panama. He was aggressive, violent, and tried to impose rules for the game; he tried to subject the Republic of Panama. He tried to prevent our presence as a peace force in the Contadora forum; our presence as an armed force in search of a balance; a neutral armed force in search of peace. That language set a very bad example, in quotes, a very bad example, and could not be accepted.

After many no's over issues that could have compromised Panama, which easily could have continued being the object of praise and consent of the forces and the administration of the pole of power, in response to those no's and in the presence of mid-level commanders and captains—Major Correa Moises, Captain Cortizo—Poindexter was upset when he left. However, he left with a battle axe, which is what we are paying for now.

Gentlemen, that is the reality, let us not be deceived. Why are they attacking us after so many years of recognition? Why? Because—this is a strictly mathematical operation—we are in 1988 now. The new president will be elected in 1989. In 1994, no one, no one will dare negotiate behind the back of the Panamanian people. The bell will ring every day to count down the time left for their departure from our territory. It will be saying there is just so much time left to leave our territory. No one will play the role of Buneau Varilla then, because all the trees of Santa Ana Park, Amador Park, Porras Park will be [words indistinct] of Panamanian sovereignty.

It has to be now to make any—now there is noise; now there is confusion; now they can overthrow a government to install another that will serve; now they can overthrow some men to put others in their place who will give. Definitely, gentlemen, it will not be this defense force, or this commander, because this flag that we all

carry, and this responsibility that we all have, has one goal, one objective, one thought, has one homeland that is Panama, and before Panama, not one step backward. [applause]

Addresses Local Rally

PA090633 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0214 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Speech by General Manuel Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, at a rally in Santiago de Veraguas—live]

[Text] Good evening to you all.

Panama is a distinct country because of its heritage and its diverse social, cultural, and political sectors. It is a political country that has its own identity. It is not a banana republic that was born yesterday. Panama is a country that has its culture. It has a right to be and exist as a country. Panama has a historical background to support its characteristics. It has the culture and the heritage of the aboriginal forces that the Spaniards found when they arrived here. Therefore, Panama was not born yesterday, nor was it imposed, nor was it brought forth by any power. Panama was born with its right to exist and belong to the American Continent. [applause]

To all the foreign newsmen present: The people of Veraguas appreciate your presence, because you can get to know the birthplace of Urraca, the Indian who confronted the Spaniards [applause]; the birthplace of Quibian; of the people of Cerro Tute [applause]; of Polidoro Pinzon; of Tolentino Gonzalez; of Omar Torrijos Herrera. [applause; shouts, slogans, chants]

We welcome all these foreign reporters, even though they might misreport what they hear and see here. We know, however, that it is not their fault, but that of their imperialist (?employers). We also know they must follow someone else's instructions. But this is our political, social, and economic reality. These are our people. These are our people, our men, our women. Our (?desire) is to make a free and sovereign homeland without demagoguery. [applause] We do not want any foreigner to put his hand in the Panamanian people's hearths and frying pans. [applause]

This is a Panamanian problem, and we do not want it handled by anybody from the north. [shouts of approval] We do not want interference from any foreign power, nor do we want the influence of any proconsul. The people have emerged from colonial times. The people have already learned to remove the posts from fences and will never again be chained. [applause; shouts of approval, slogans]

This struggle did not start today. This struggle did not start with this man, in this institution, in this province, or with these political groups, these friendly forces. This struggle began as soon as the treaty negotiated by a foreigner was signed. This struggle began the liberation of the people at that time. We see that every Panamanian patriot has contributed over the course of time and in his own way toward this achievement since 1904.

We see how the student generations have joined this struggle. We saw Urena from Veraguas Province cut to pieces while he carried the flag at the time of the Filos-Hines base treaties. [applause] We see the 9 January martyrs, who did not belong to any one political party, but only to the Panamanian people, sacrifice themselves in significant numbers so another generation could move forward and live in peace. We also saw a commander outraged and murdered in 1952 because, in view of a possible renewal of the Panama Canal Treaties, he said: We want neither millions nor alms; we want justice. This was General Remon. [applause]

We have also seen another commander, Torrijos, grab the flag, advance, and achieve progress in this struggle.

He stated it very clearly. He said the struggle had not ended. There was a historical error: popular forces did not make any advancements and the Panamanian people thought it had resolved its problem. At that time, Panamanians did not realize and visualize the problem was ahead of them at the moment they—they, the power of the north—realized that geopolitically speaking Panama is necessary, and Panama is a post it cannot abandon. That is why they now seek weak governments and men; it seeks traitors and men who can ignore their own identities and change their own names to live under the shade of tainted money that comes from their betrayal of their comrades, struggles, peoples, and identities. [Crowd shouts: "To the firing squad, commander!"]

Those who hope to return to Panama when the FDP collapses; those who hope to return to Panama when another government [word indistinct; crowd laughs], those who hope to return to Panama with the strength, the power, and the support, sponsorship, and password of the colonialist administration, which wishes to extend its armed presence in Panama; those who would even sell the Veraguas sugar mill to continue in power [applause]; those who sold their spirit and essence; those who laughed at Torrijos at all times—for those men, for those creatures, there is only one decision and one slogan: The social, political forces of the people from Veraguas and the guests from Chiriqui, Herrera, Los Santos, Cocle, and Panama Provinces, these friendly forces here present will not accept, will not accept a step backward. They will not accept to return to the past. Here in Veraguas, the sugar mills, which are a social need for economic development and protection, will never be closed. [applause]

Our reality is that aggression has a name and a purpose: This name is the military bases; this purpose is the permanence in our territory of an army more powerful than ours. This is the only truth. This is the sole purpose. If a treaty dealing with the bases is to be signed, it has to

be now, because no generation will permit any traitors, such as Bunau Varilla did in the past, to pawn the generation that will take over the country in the year 2000. [applause]

I have heard the U.S. Department of State, Elliott Abrams, and others say the solution is Noriega's ouster or death. [crowd shouts] They are wrong. They are wrong because this is a liberation struggle and those who entered this tunnel, this path are heading in a single direction with a single compass, and on a single course: the homeland. Before the homeland there is no fear and no death. [applause]

The weak, the useless, the unproductive are the ones who die; productive people and ideas never die. Bodies are killed; spirits are never killed. [crowd shouts] The spirit, the spirit is this fist, this fist that will never be opened because it is a Panamanian fist, dammit! [crowd shouts: "Not one step backward, commander!"]

U.S. Troop Withdrawal Demanded

PA090132 Paris AFP in Spanish 0021 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 8 Feb (AFP)—Mid-level officers of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] today demanded President Eric Arturo Delvalle order the withdrawal of the U.S. Southern Command based in this country, saying that "Panama is being subjected to ruthless political and economic aggression by the United States." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, this afternoon Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia held a meeting with the ambassadors accredited to Washington, the United Nations, and the OAS to evaluate the future of Panama's relations with the United States.

These three diplomats had been called to Panama for "consulations" after a U.S. jury indicted General Manuel Antonio Noriega on charges of international drug trafficking and other crimes.

In that meeting, the U.S. Government's attitude toward Panama was considered "unfriendly," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told AFP. The spokesman did not mention whether there would be changes in the relations between the two countries.

The diplomatic relations between Panama and the United States have been at a very low point since June of last year, when antigovernment protests began, led by the opposition National Civic Crusade, to demand Noriega's withdrawal. [passage omitted]

FDP Officers Issue Communique

PA090545 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0117 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Communique by mid-level commanders and officers of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP)—read by FDP Major Armando Palacios Gondola at FDP headquarters in Panama City on 8 February—recorded]

[Text] Whereas the mid-level commanders and officers, are the guarantors of the generational change of command, of discipline, honor, and loyalty to the institution:

1. Whereas the Panamanian nation has been subjected to ruthless political and economic aggression by the United States;

2. Whereas the FDP has been the chief target of this aggression, especially our commander in chief, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, and top FDP officers. The purpose is to break the unity within the institution and to prevent the generational struggle to achieve our national objective, that is, to regain total sovereignty in the year 2000.

3. Whereas bad Panamanians, including two retired officers harboring unbridled ambitions of power, have joined in this campaign against the Panamanian nation by inciting the FDP to rebellion.

4. Whereas, the objectives of this aggression are to ignore the Torrijos-Carter Treaties so as to extend the permanence of U.S. bases and troops beyond the year 2000 through the Southern Command; to force Panama out of the Contadora Group; and to use the FDP as a instrument of Washington's war policies in Central America.

5. Whereas the national government and the Panamanian people and their FDP have flatly rejected the plans by the United States and their local lackeys.

We resolve:

1. To maintain the solid unity of the FDP in view of this aggression and reject the call to rebellion by traitors who sell out their fatherland.

2. To reject the meddling of civilians in FDP internal affairs and its organic and hierarchical life, except for those civilians who are constitutionally entitled to do so. The FDP is a professional and disciplined institution; its men are part of the Panamanian people who have been attacked.

3. We reaffirm our loyalty oath to the fatherland and the institution.

We have maintained and will continue to maintain our strong support for our Commander in Chief, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, and his general staff in their

struggle for the country's sovereignty and independence; for their projects furthering the FDP's professional development; and for the legitimate demands by the people.

We respectfully ask President Eric Arturo Delvalle that the U.S. Southern Command be withdrawn from our territory as its presence is not included in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and annexed agreements. [applause] Its presence serves only the interest of projecting U.S. military power in the hemisphere and meddling in the domestic affairs of friendly nations to the detriment of the good relations that exist between Panama and those countries and in violation of the Neutrality Agreement of the Panama Canal.

2. [No number 1 as heard] We respectfully request our commander in chief and his general staff to authorize us to publicly defend our institution from the slander and libel to which it has been subjected.

3. Since General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, violated the internal regulations of the institution and the principles of military discipline and honor by tarnishing the prestige of our armed institution, we respectfully ask that our commander in chief and his general staff order that he forfeit his retirement status as a general and the honors and rights of his present military status and further that his name be stricken from the institution's rolls as an example for present and future generations.

CCN Calls for Noriega's Ouster

PA081740 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Feb 88 p 14B

["Communique to the Country" issued by the National Civic Crusade in Panama on 7 February]

[Text] In view of the facts that have shaken the citizens over the past few days, the National Civic Crusade [CCN], states the following:

1. Reflecting national feelings, we Panamanians are ashamed that the actions of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, while exercising the post of commander of the Panama Defense Forces, have brought about an indictment on charges of drug trafficking and money laundering by an arm of justice that is both serious and credible.

2. By virtue of the honor of the uniform he wears, Gen Noriega cannot and must not avoid appearing before the court that will try him, with the assurance that, in contrast to what happens to Panamanians in our country, he will have guarantees that the trial will be impartial and will determine if he is guilty—as U.S. authorities claim—or innocent, as he claims.

3. In addition to the moral and social implications and consequences that Gen Noriega's trial will have for the country, we must all bear in mind that unless Gen Noriega is removed from his post immediately and the required measures are taken for a true democratization of our country, our national economy will deteriorate even further, primarily affecting the neediest in our society. As a result of actions by a small group of Panamanians, on an international level, Panama has lost ability, credibility, and confidence; while, on the domestic level, the government has demonstrated its complete inability to solve the country's problems.

4. Because of the above, the CCN demands that the president of the Republic remove Gen Noriega from his post, and that he appear before the U.S. courts that boast of credibility, of having a legal system that guarantees the trial proceedings, so that he can demonstrate the truth or falsehood of the accusations leveled against him.

5. Making use of legal terrorism, two social communications media have been closed: Radio KW Continente, and the newspaper EL SIGLO, despite the fact that they were recently opened based on an alleged amnesty. Such closures, which are arbitrary and violate the existing laws and the nation's Constitution, are one more aberration and one more example of the despotic and dictatorial regime under which the Republic operates. Therefore, the CCN strongly protests their closure and demands they be reopened immediately.

6. Because of the above, the nation is on the brink of a collapse and a confrontation among Panamanians demanding that we do whatever is necessary to prevent this from happening. In light of this fact, despite the current circumstances, and after 9 months of a civic and peaceful struggle, we reiterate the postulates that gave rise to the creation of the CCN on 9 June 1987, which are the immediate separation of the civilian and military officials who are being accused, [and] the creation of an independent commission to investigate the crimes committed and to ensure an impartial examination to rescue the democratic institutions guaranteeing justice, liberty, and democracy.

7. The citizens must be ready to continue struggling peacefully to achieve the proposals outlined and to rescue the country. To this end, they must remain patriotically alert, awaiting the call by the CCN for a great national strike. Panama, 7 February 1988

Torrijos Family Denies Diaz Herrera Charges

PA082115 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2130 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 7 Feb (EFE)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega is innocent and has no responsibility in the death of General Omar Torrijos, who died in a plane accident in 1981, the Torrijos family told EFE today.

Moises Torrijos Herrera—a 72-year-old newsman, the oldest of the 12 brothers, and spokesman for the remaining 11 brothers—denied the statements made by "my cousin" retired Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera to the Caracas daily EL NACIONAL.

Diaz Herrera was the fuse of the political crisis that has affected Panama since the first days of June 1987 when, he made outrageous charges against Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Commander in Chief Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega. Diaz Herrera had retired from his post as the FDP Chief of the General Staff a few days earlier, and has allegedly turned into Noriega's rival.

Noriega has been charged with several crimes, and has been blamed for Torrijos' death, under the assumption that it resulted from a plot.

When Diaz Herrera was arrested and put on trial, he retracted the accusations—which he is now voicing again in Caracas—and asked for a pardon from his former boss, Gen Noriega. Noriega's removal as FDP chief has become the strongest desire of the Panamanian opposition.

"The family is very distressed over the emotional health of Col Diaz Herrera, who is being exploited by the sensationalist press," Moises Torrijos told EFE.

The media "sees in those statements intoxicating bits of information with which to prepare a barrage negatively affecting Panama's image," he added.

The family "is distressed for what has occurred to Col Diaz, which has even led him to make statements that has damaged Gen Torrijos' historical image," Moises Torrijos said. He insisted that when Col Diaz Herrera was arrested, "the family consistently appealed so he would be treated with some consideration."

"We helped to obtain his release, because we understand, as Diaz Herrera said himself, that his (mental health) condition was not normal," Moises Torrijos stated.

Concerning Noriega's alleged links in Omar Torrijos' death, Moises said that "during the parallel investigation the Torrijos family conducted, and as we already stated in June 1987, we found no evidence against Gen Noriega."

According to the Torrijos family spokesman, "This is a good oportunity to say that at the time of the accident at Cerro Mata—where Omar Torrijos' plane crashed—Torrijos' death did not benefit Noriega."

In clear referrence to General Paredes, the Torrijos family spokesman said, "It is necessary to determine the degree of responsibility for this action among some people currently attacking the FDP, because they could not use the FDP as a springboard for their excessive ambitions for power."

Gen Paredes succeeded Torrijos as FDP chief, and as the "strongman" at that time, forced the resignation of Aristides Royo, president of the Republic during Torrijos' times.

At the beginning of the current crisis, Paredes—who told the local media that Omar Torrijos' death had been accidental, and who released Noriega from any responsibility—has now joined the Panamanian political opposition.

"As a journalist, I feel deceived by the manipulation carried out by most of the U.S. media," Moises Torrijos said.

According to Torrijos' oldest brother, such media "are nurtured by gossip, absurdities, and nonsense—which are the constant factor in this circus we are experiencing, and which is harming the peace of the country."

Moises Torrijos told EFE that his statements were coordinated with the entire Torrijos family, and he signed the text of the statement.

Further Opposition Media Closures Reported

PA081652 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 Feb 88 pp l, A-12

[By James Aparicio]

[Text] The opposition newspaper EL SIGLO was closed yesterday as a preventive measure by order of judicial authorities, who are investigating libel suits made against the newspaper and alleged attacks against the economy and the state.

EL SIGLO, a 24-page sensationalist tabloid, was reopened in the first half of January after having been closed by the Office of the Attorney General on 27 July, on charges of attacking "the economy and the established powers."

An amnesty approved by the Legislative Assembly in December permitted EL SIGLO and six other opposition newspapers and radio stations to reopen, with the investigation left unfinished.

Luis Estribi, one of the directors of the tabloid, confirmed over the telephone to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that the newspaper was closed by Defense Forces policemen who were guarding the newspaper's installations. These are located in the Punta Paitilla neighborhood.

The frequency of Radio Continente, owned by Rodrigo Correa, was suspended on Saturday for similar reasons after some of its programs issued calls for civil disobedience and made allegations that banking officials were involved in crimes.

Judicial sectors have also reported that Defense Forces Major Cleto Hernandez [director of the Modelo Jail] has filed a suit for slander against General Ruben Dario

Paredes, retired, who incriminated Hernandez in the death of Paredes' son, Ruben Dario Paredes Jr. The younger Paredes was killed in Medellin, Colombia by alleged drug traffickers.

Hernandez also sued Legislator Antonio Arias and Felix Ochy, associate directors of EL SIGLO, and journalists Chin Arauz, Francisco Bosquez, and Elkiria Santos. He sued them because of EL SIGLO reports on Gen Paredes' charges and on reports that Hernandez 'kicked' LA PRENSA photographer Alcides Rodriguez. Rodriguez was arrested last week on charges of "disrespect for authority" while he was covering the release of National Civic Crusade [CCN] leaders Alberto Boyd and Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra. The two CCN leaders are under investigation for "attacking the economy and the image of the state."

As part of the investigations that the Office of the 8th District Prosecutor is carrying out to prove alleged attacks on "the image of the state" by CCN executive committee members Alberto Boyd, Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra, Rogelio Douglas, Carlos Valencia, and Jose Raul Mulino, three journalists have been summoned to confirm their reports and three others have been summoned to prove their published reports.

Jose Quintero De Leon of LA PRENSA and Emilio Sinclair and James Aparicio of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA testified last week to confirm reports concerning the activities of the opposition CCN.

Reporter Flor Quintero of LA PRENSA remains unable to work as a journalist until a request for 2,000 balboas bail in her name is met. Quintero was summoned by the Ministry of Government to prove what she wrote in an article in which she reported the existence of an executive decree to dismiss 15,000 government workers. President Eric Arturo Delvalle denied the report and announced that he will file a suit against the newspaper.

Reporters Alfredo Jimenez Velez of LA PRENSA and Blas Julio of EL SIGLO were also summoned to present proof supporting their reports concerning an alleged slaughter of deer by Defense Forces members on Contadora Island.

It has been unofficially reported that 8th District Prosecutor Jose Gomez Carzola will be issuing new summonses for the crime of "attacking the image of the state." This summonses will involve 22 CCN members. Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, has also been summoned to testify, but he has yet to do so. A slander suit filed by President Eric Delvalle against Paredes is pending.

Radio Chiriqui, Others Closed

PA091258 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] At 1900 yesterday, Ministry of Government and Justice officials announced the closure of radio station La Exitosa and its affiliated stations in the country's interior. This was related to Ramon Jimenez Velez, the station's news director, who was at the station with his staff at the time.

At the same time, Radio Chiriqui in David was closed. No further information was available on this.

The resolution on La Exitosa, Resolution No 21 of 8 February 1988, is signed by Rodolfo Chiari De Leon, and Targidio Bernal, minister and deputy minister of government and justice, respectively. As justification for the closure, the resolution states that in the past few days the radio stations of the Exitosa network have repeatedly been involved in activities that have called for the commission of crimes and the violation of the Constitution and the law.

It adds these actions were compounded by telephone interviews from abroad, broadcast to the entire country yesterday, 8 February, by Messrs Alberto Boyd, Jose I. Blandon, Jr., Gabriel Lewis Galindo, and Miguel Antonio Bernal, who have called for the total paralyzation and military occupation of the country, and for a general strike.

The radio stations affected include the flagship station in Panama City, and stations in La Chorrera, Colon, Chiriqui, and the central provinces.

TV-2 Reacts to Early Morning Attack

PA082001 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] At dawn today, a car with its lights out and without a license plate stopped at the main entrance of this Televisora Nacional, Channel 2, and one of its occupants got out and opened fire, hitting the door and damaging other installations.

In September 1987, a Molotov cocktail destroyed the air conditioning system and the eaves on the roof in the back of our studios, also endangering the lives of workers of this enterprise.

These two attacks, which TV-2 did not mention [before this], show that the groups that are unable to mobilize the country with their call for destabilization—a destabilization that would increase the economic crisis and would result in a high level of unemployment—are fully entering the stage of terrorism. Cowardly violence is the clearest demonstration of extremist minorities that, since they do not have the backing of the majority, become a stubborn minority and wind up becoming a secret sect completely devoted to attacks without running any risks themselves.

Those who serve the darkest of interests cannot get over their impotence, helplessness. The vast resources they have or the apparatus for misinformation they use at the international level do not save them from the rejection of the workers, peasants, and students.

TV-2 will not heed the hypocritical dogma of those who scream hysterically on behalf of freedom of expression, that they have a license with impunity to provoke the complete collapse of our socioeconomic life.

We reaffirm our position after publicly warning that next time an attack on this enterprise—which has rendered more than 25 years of service to the Panamanian community—will not go unpunished.

Regarding thoughts and ideas, we have the moral authority to remain true to the principles of sovereignty and independence for which Panamanians have been fighting for over a century. Regarding coercion and cowardly attacks, we will face those who come around our installations protected by the darkness of night.

The fate of the fatherland is at stake; the fate of Panama is at stake. Those of us who are aware that a means of communication loses all its effectiveness when it identifies itself with the anti-Panamanian conspiracy will always surmount fears and hesitation. We are on the side of the national spirit. We are on the people's side, and, in that regard, we will not be silenced and our equipment will not be destroyed.

Argentina

Alfonsin, Commanders Meet, Analyze 'Mutiny'

PY082019 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2341 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Feb (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin today met with Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena, chief of the joint staff, and the chiefs of staff of the three branches to analyze the trial of the military men who participated in the mutiny in January and the budget policy for the sector, particularly as it refers to the government-sponsored plan for equipping and modernizing the military sector.

During the meeting, which was held at a country house owned by Jaunarena in Campo de Mayo, Alfonsin listened to the reports read by the chiefs of staff of each branch and gave instructions for the sector for this year. This information has been disclosed by a Defense Ministry spokesman.

The source added that the rebellion headed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico in mid-January and the trials initiated by the military courts in this regard were also analyzed.

The spokesman denied that the presidential request concerning retiring Lieutenant Commander Alfredo Astiz was analyzed, because the agenda included only matters involving the three branches. [sentence as received]

Concerning the budget issue, the talks centered around the way funds will be channeled to each branch, in keeping with a decision the Finance Secretariat has already made, the source added.

The agenda also included a review of the Armed Forces modernization plan, for which—according to a 21 December 1987 agreement by the military commanders and the government—each branch will have to submit a list of its top responsibilities, describing specific tasks, in order to facilitate joint and coordinated military action.

Concerning salaries, the source reported that the policy implemented thus far was confirmed, although the results of the last technical analyses were included.

The meeting was attended by Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe; Technical Planning Secretary Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini; Jose Llados, secretary for production for defense; Brigadier Teodoro Waldner, chief of the joint General Staff; General Dante Caridi, Army chief of staff; Brigadier Ernesto Crespo, Air Force chief of staff; Vice Admiral Ramon Arosa, navy chief of staff; and President Raul Alfonsin.

The source said the military officers and officials were dressed in sports clothes, and the meeting was held in a cordial and informal atmosphere.

Angeloz, Casella Offered UCR Candidacy

PY042242 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1510 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 4 Feb (NA)—President Raul Alfonsin has officially called on reelected Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz and Juan Manuel Casella, the defeated candidate for governor of Buenos Aires Province, to become the candidates of the UCR for president and vice president.

The offer was made last night during a dinner at the private residence of UCR President Edison Otero, which was attended by Alfonsin and the other two leaders.

This information was provided by Angeloz to Radio Mitre when he was asked about the dinner at Otero's house.

"I accepted the offer and I will try to act according to the circumstances demanded by the country and the party," Angeloz said after Alfonsin made the proposal.

However, Angeloz told Radio Continental that the presidential ticket "should emerge from consensus in the party" and that "if there is no consensus, the candidates will have to be elected at the ballot boxes."

Asked about the recent military crisis and its repercussions in his province, and about his political image, Angeloz said that in Cordoba "the members of the Armed Forces have profound democratic convictions." [passage omitted]

UCR Issues Document on Constitutional Reform

PY031836 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1222 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (TELAM)—The UCR National Committee last night announced its support for a constitutional reform to introduce the position of a prime minister as the head of a cabinet that reports to Congress; to expedite legislative proceedings by modifying the present system for approving laws; and to incorporate legal tools such as the plebiscite, the referendum, and popular initiatives.

The UCR leadership established its position regarding the reform by issuing a document drafted at party headquarters in the capital during a meeting that lasted more than 5 hours. The UCR committee also nominated a six-member commission to look for points of agreement with other political parties.

Regarding the introduction of a prime minister, the committee said it will strengthen the role of Congress in the government by depersonalizing power through a greater distribution of responsibilities, better controls, and a more genuine participation by different population sectors. [passage omitted]

The UCR committee said it will make important contributions to consolidate democracy during the year. This comes at a time when the country is definitely united and enjoying its institutions after the victory of the arms of democracy which have destroyed the last, grotesque, and desperate attempt at a return to the past.

The committee nominated six people for the commission that will seek consensus with the other political parties on constitutional reform. Two of the six will represent the government, two will represent the UCR bloc in Congress, and two will represent the party.

The presidents of the commissions of constitutional affairs of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, Fernando de la Rua and Jorge Vanossi, respectively, were nominated to represent Congress. Alfredo Orgaz, second vice president of the national committee, and Marcelo Stubrin, in charge of the committee's institutional affairs department, will represent the party.

President Raul Alfonsin will nominate those who will represent the government. There is little doubt, however, that the designations will fall on former Appellate Court Judge Guillermo Gil Lavedra, who was present last night, and Carlos Nino, president of the Council for the Consolidation of Democracy. [passage omitted]

Briefs

New Military Cabinet Chief

President Raul Alfonsin has administered the oath of office to the new military cabinet chief, Rear Admiral Alberto Cesar Gonzalez, who replaced Brigadier Hector Panzardi in that post. [Excerpt] *[Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 88 p 4 PY]*

Brazil

Senate Committee Questions Debt Negotiation

PY050100 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Feb 88 p A-37

[Text] Brasilia—Senators Carlos Chiarelli, of the Liberal Front Party, Rio Grande do Sul, and Fernando Henrique Cardoso, of the PMDB, Sao Paulo, president and observer of the Senate Foreign Debt Committee and leaders of their respective parties, yesterday released a note in the name of their committee expressing "surprise" at the "turnaround in the negotiation" of the Brazilian foreign debt with the creditor banks in New York on 1 February. Deputy Delfim Netto, of the Social Democratic Party, Sao Paulo, and former negotiator of the Brazilian foreign debt when he was planning minister from 1979 to 1985 [as published], considered the advanced payment of a portion of the debt interest Brazil owes for January "an intelligent measure, capable of clearing the negotiations."

The senators' note states that the Brazilian Government's decision to deposit $350 million "without an apparent counter-deposit" by the banks "is contradictory to the policy followed so far." They point out that the government's proposal of 25 September "had innovations aimed at modifying the classical negotiation process with the banks." The note adds: "Besides the nonconventional proposal of converting part of the debt into bonds, the government intended to introduce new aspects into the negotiation process, such as considerably reducing the spread rates, guarantees, financing of 60 percent of the interest, etc."

"With yesterday's decision, Brazil modifies this strategy. It yields, and suspends the moratorium before discussing a medium-term agreement," the note states. The senators also criticize the preparation of an imminent agreement with the IMF, "thus contradicting another Finance Ministry decision of mid- November."

The note states that with the payment of the $350 million, "the moratorium was suspended without having obtained any of the advantages that were expected as a result of the declaration of the moratorium." The note concludes by stating that the committee will meet next week to discuss the observer's preliminary report and to evaluate the negotiation situation.

Deputy Delfim Netto said the payment of the interest "is a measure that should have been implemented earlier." He believes this payment will facilitate an agreement between the government and the creditor banks. "This is like a minuet in which everything is coordinated. Nobody does anything like this (making advance payment of interest) if it has not been coordinated." Netto also defended Brazil's return to the IMF.

Meanwhile, in the national Constituent Assembly, Deputy Fernando Santana, Brazilian Communist Party, Bahia, questioned the $350-million deposit, which represents 37 percent of the $930 million in interest due in January. According to his calculations, the interest should amount to $945.9 million. He also said that Brazil should not be negotiating a medium-term agreement for the foreign debt, but a long-term one for the "next 30 or 40 years."

ENGESA Unveils New Armored Vehicle

PY041504 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Feb 88 p 6

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Excerpts] The Sucuri II/EE-18, the newest Brazilian armored vehicle made by ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc], is a killer. This 18-ton compact vehicle can travel at 110 km/hour and has a formidable 105-mm cannon that can fire 10 times per minute. The Sucuri II/EE-18 is as maneuverable as a buggy [preceding word in English] and has a hydropneumatic suspension very similar to that of Formula-1 cars. It is equipped with

infra-red night vision, and its computer allows precise shooting at 2,000-meters. As a matter of fact, the EE-18 needs all these characteristics to carry out its basic mission: to seek out and destroy tanks.

This is the fourth armored vehicle to be produced by ENGESA (the other three are the Cascavel EE-9, the Urutu EE-11, and the Jararaca EE-3) and it is another member of the family. In addition to the EE-18, equipped with 105-mm cannons, ENGEPEQ—ENGESA's subsidiary in charge of developing the vehicle—is working on three other versions: an anti-aircraft version with 30- or 35-mm cannons of various specifications; one with short-range ground to air missile launchers; and one with 120-mm rocket launchers or 105-mm howitzers. [passage omitted]

It took only 1 year—from 1986 to 1987—to design and build the Sucuri. The first unit of the initial series was ready in November and has already been shown to potential foreign clients. For example, the Libyan military mission that visited ENGESA last week saw the Sucuri and might submit it to a series of tests in its country. [passage omitted]

The Sucuri II has a 4-man crew (driver, artilleryman, ammunition supplier, and commander), who are in a cell provided with a gas filter, air conditioner, and automatic fire extinguisher system. The vehicle's overall length is 7.75 meters with the cannon, the width is 2.8 meters, and the height is 2.52 meters to the turret roof and 1.75 meters to the vehicle's roof.

The 105-mm cannon is supported by a 7.62-mm coaxial machinegun. The vehicle has 6-wheel drive. The motor is a 385 HP Scania DS 11, with an automatic 6-speed gear box. The vehicle's range is 700 km.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Purchased From Algeria

PY081800 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Feb 88 p 22

[Excerpts] Brazil has closed a deal to import 240,000 tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Algeria. With this deal, Algeria will become the second largest supplier of this product to Brazil, following Saudi Arabia, which supplies 500,000 tons of LPG per year. A contract was signed by the Petrobras commercial branch in London, and it should be officially ratified in Brazil in the next few days. [passage omitted]

The agreement between Brazil and Algeria for the purchase of LPG could open the way for the entry of Brazilian service enterprises, mainly among engineering companies, in Algeria. This is the opinion of Mario Carvalho, market and product coordinator from the Studies and Foreign Trade Center Foundation (FUNCEX).

Carvalho believes the agreement might be the key to open the Algerian market to Brazilian exporters of consumer goods, since imports are rigidly controlled there. According to him, a study on bilateral Brazilian-Algerian relations made by FUNCEX economist Flavio Mundim Coelho reveals that Brazil purchased from Algeria 1.5 percent of the total Algerian sales in the 1979-86 period. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Media Appointments

Civilian Household Chief Ronaldo Costa Couto today announced that journalist Antonio Carlos Drumond will be the presidential public relations and press deputy chief. His job will be to direct, supervise, and coordinate the work of RADIOBRAS [Brazilian Radiobroadcasting Company] and EBN [Brazilian News Agency], which are now directly subordinate to the Civilian Household. Costa Couto also announced that journalist Getulio Bittencourt will be the new president of EBN. Both journalists will be sworn in next week. [Text] *[Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 29 Jan 88 PY]*

Chile

PDC President Criticizes Pinochet's Methods

PY060139 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Patricio Aylwin is repeating historical mistakes that caused the country to undergo the scourge of terrorism. He is saying that violence must be fought only with reason, law, and a spirit of conciliation.

During a news conference in which the Armed Forces' neutrality in the plebiscite was mentioned, Aylwin said Pinochet's method to end the violence of armed leftist extremism has not yielded positive results. Aylwin said Pinochet uses warlike language.

[Begin Aylwin recording] He uses warlike language. I think Chileans expect something more. Doubtless there is violence in Chile. However, President Pinochet's method to end violence, to pacify or [words indistinct] is bad, because after 14 years there is still violence and no peace. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on Aylwin's Remarks

PY082208 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1819 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 6 Feb (TELAM-EFE)—PDC President Patricio Aylwin has compared Pinochet with Batista and Somoza and said that for General Pinochet "chaos means anything except his government."

Aylwin added that in 1980 Pinochet talked about chaos during the plebiscite to approve the current Constitution, which establishes that the presidential plebiscite will be held in 1988.

Aylwin stated: "I think Gen Pinochet is leading the country toward chaos like all dictators who remain in power for a long time, such as Batista in Cuba and Somoza in Nicaragua."

Aylwin said: "We have proposed a 4-year government program because we do not want chaos. We want to end this warlike regime and establish democratic, peaceful coexistence in Chile."

The PDC president pointed out that 4 years were chosen instead of 8 or 10 "because the terms of office for democratic governments are short and because we seek to reorganize the country as soon as possible and not keep it indefinitely within a fixed framework."

On 2 February, 13 opposition political parties submitted a 4-year democratic government program and promised to vote "no" at the plebiscite scheduled for the end of 1988. The program was signed by the Liberal Republican Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Radical Party, and the Socialist Democratic Party. The Communist Party was excluded from the agreement.

On 4 February, Pinochet said this program has brought "the Moors and Christians together, but their mentalities have not changed." He added that after the proposed 4 years "the country will be in total chaos."

'Slanderous' Campaign Against Bishop Reported

PY052007 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1447 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Santiago, 5 Feb (EFE)—Msgr Camus, the bishop of Linares (southern Chile), today charged that a campaign has been orchestrated against Episcopal Conference President Carlos Gonzalez.

Msgr Camus explained that in the past few days, several priests have received through the mail a 17-page publication signed by a so-called Chilean Catholic Action. The publication includes several "slanderous" remarks aginst the president of the Chilean Episcopal Conference.

Msgr Camus said "the baseness of the insults contained in the pamphlet does not merit a response. It is surprising, however, that there should be people or groups with enough money to orchestrate such an unworthy campaign."

Camus, a harsh critic of the Chilean military regime of General Augusto Pinochet, defended Msgr Gonzalez, who was recently elected president of the Episcopal Conference and who is regarded as a supporter of the more progressive line within the Chilean Catholic Church.

Camus concluded by saying that "this publication is another example of violence implemented by lies, and it can be of no benefit to our national coexistence."

National Vanguard Party Enrolled in Registry

PY051443 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Jan 88 p C-3

[Excerpt] The National Vanguard Party [Partido Avanzada Nacional] yesterday became the second political party to legally enroll in the Registry of Political Parties. In the OFFICIAL GAZETTE, the electoral service director, Juan Ignacio Garcia, published a resolution stating that "the National Vanguard Party's request for registration has been accepted because it has been organized in seven regions of the country, namely, the 1st, 3d, 4th, 5th, 7th, 11th, and 12th regions.

The first party to be entered in the Registry of Political Parties last December was the National Renewal Party, which has been organized in three regions, namely, the 9th, 10th, and 11th regions. [passage omitted]

More on National Renewal Party

PY051533 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Jan 88 p C-3

[Excerpts] The National Renewal Party is the first nationwide party to have registered in the Political Parties Registry. The electoral service certified that the National Renewal Party has complied with the provision concerning the required minimum number of members, as established by the Political Parties Law. [passage omitted]

However, the party was registered with only 48,596 members of the 61,000- member list it had presented. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Trade Figures Announced

A Central Bank bulletin has reported that the 1987 trade surplus amounted to $1,229,400,000. The surplus was the result of a 27-percent increase in copper exports and a 28.4-percent increase in exports of other products. Compared to 1986, total imports increased by 28.8 percent. [Summary] *[Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Feb 88 PY]*

Colombia

Government Adopts Plan To Safeguard Elections

PA081614 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1720 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The government and the military high command today adopted the measures needed to implement what is called the Democracy Plan, which is intended to guarantee free, safe municipal elections on 13 March.

Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio Molina said the government's presence will be felt throughout the country. He stressed there are no plans to suspend the elections in any part of the country. [passage omitted]

Cartagena Court Rules in Favor of Ochoa

PA061506 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Feb 88 p 9-A

[Report by Eduardo Garcia Martinez]

[Excerpt] Cartagena, 1 Feb—A local judge has ruled in favor of alleged narcotics trafficker Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez.

According to Diomedes Sanchez Andrade, Cartagena superior customs judge, Ochoa has served the 20-month sentence passed against him by the judge at the time, Fabio Pastrana Hoyos, for smuggling fighting bulls into Colombia.

In other words, he is free because he served his sentence. Judge Sanchez Andrade issued the verdict last Saturday and sent his ruling to the Cartagena regional attorney's office. Elsa Saavedra de Guette, head of the regional attorney's office, had asked Sanchez to reconsider Pastrana Hoyos' ruling.

Sanchez calculated the time Ochoa was under arrest in Spain, in Cartagena, and in Bogota and concluded that the cattle rancher had served his sentence. The official accepted a request to this effect presented by Ochoa's lawyer.

The request was presented on 12 January, the date the judicial branch returned from its Christmas vacation. The judge said that in view of the request, he issued a verdict based on Penal Code Article 33, which covers the calculation of sentences. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister Cleared

PA051422 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] We have a last-minute report: Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra has been cleared in the investigation of Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez' release on 30 December. Investigators appointed by the Attorney General's Office said Minister Low is not involved in this deplorable incident. The investigation was ordered by the late Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos, who has since been assassinated.

Briefs

New Supreme Court President

Jose Alejandro Bonivento Fernandez was appointed new president of the Supreme Court yesterday. He replaces Juan Hernandez Saenz, who ended his term in December. [Summary] *[Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 22 Jan 88 p 1 PA]*

Paraguay

Demonstrations, Rallies Oppose 14 Feb Election

Laino, Others Arrested

PY031500 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1357 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...of abstentionism, which was organized by the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] committee, was partially held at the Espiritu Santo parish in Potrero Guazu. This meeting was attended by PLRA President Domingo Laino, who once again advocated active abstention in the elections; that is, to abstain from casting votes in the upcoming election and to actively engage in actions aimed at promoting this position of the PLRA, which is a member of the National Accord and which has not participated in an election for quite some time.

Dr Laino, Dr Carlos Caballero Roig, and Authentic Radical Liberal Youth leader Ramon Ferreira were arrested. The three detainees were taken in a police car to Itaugua. The decision as to the condition and charges against the detainees will be released later. The arrest took place after an intense struggle and a violent argument involving the Itaugua police commissioner and other police forces brought in merely for effect. The commissioner repeatedly asked that the meeting be suspended on the grounds that it was not authorized. However, it was not suspended, Dr Laino continued to speak, and the meeting continued for approximately 30 minutes. The meeting ended with a violent struggle between the police and the participants, who were expelled from the parish when police entered.

The result is that three men have been detained and several others sustained injuries as a result of being beaten.

Opposition Members Released

PY052331 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 5 Feb 88 p 10

[Text] "Prison conditions have clearly worsened," said Domingo Laino this morning upon leaving the Security Police Detention Center, where he had been held since 2 February after being arrested in the Potrero Guazu district of Itaugua.

Laino, who is the president of the PLRA, was released along with Felipe Duarte, Carlos Caballero Roig, and Ramon Ferreira. Laino said their identification cards were taken and not returned—the police refused to give them back. Laino added: "We are without our identification cards as a result of the stubbornness of the police officials."

Regarding the events in the chapel of Espiritu Santo in Potrero Guazu, Laino said he lost "a tooth on the left side. A paramilitary hit me with his elbow and broke my tooth."

He said: Prison conditions are worse. We were not allowed to have toothbrushes, toothpaste, towels, or clothing. The sheets in our cells were dirty. They may have been white in the past, but now they are dirty brown in color.

Laino also talked about "the kidnapping" of youth leader Felipe Duarte Vargas. He said: "Duarte was kidnapped at 1400 on 2 February and taken to the Security Police Detention Center. We went through very hard times, but hard times nourish us to continue struggling for free elections and for the realization of democracy in the country."

Laino added: "The 14 February elections can be considered normal in a totalitarian autocracy that will again conduct a sham election, a farce that is so badly organized the international community will not accept it. The regime does not even have the ability to run its farce discreetly."

Benitez Florentin talked about the communique released by the Colorado Party Executive Board in relation to the Coronel Oviedo and Itaugua events.

Democratic Movement Demonstrates

PY061534 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 6 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] The Popular Democratic Movement (MDP) staged another lightning demonstration at 1130 yesterday. According to a communique released by the MDP, this demonstration was held to support its campaign for abstention from voting and to demand the release of Gustavo Zimmerliz, Alberto Gorosito, Napoleon Ortigoza, Remigio Gimenez, Alejandro Mella Latorre, "and all political and social prisoners." The demonstration took place along Fernando de la Mora and General Santos Avenues.

The peaceful demonstration, staged by nearly 60 people marching along 4 blocks, ended with a symbolic ceremony at the intersection of these avenues. No incidents were reported during the demonstration. Half an hour later, police personnel from the 4th Precinct conducted a check of identification cards around the place where the demonstration was held.

The MDP communique on this demonstration calls on the citizenry, "the democratic political opposition of the country, and all social organizations to actively unite against the repression and the 14 February electoral fraud through abstention from voting and mass participation in the public events that will be sponsored by the National Coordinating Board for Free Elections."

The demonstration was also staged against "the repression and tortures to which political and common prisoners are subjected. The torture, repression, and physical violence that the regime uses have once again been evident in the case of our colleagues Gustavo Zimmerliz and Alberto Gorosito."

Rally Held in Capiata

PY081740 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 8 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Capiata—The PLRA yesterday held a rally near the church of this town. The rally was held in demand "of free elections" and against "the fraudulent 14 February elections."

The rally was abruptly broken up by the police who had to chase PLRA leader Miguel Abdon Saguier to arrest him.

In addition to Saguier, the other political leaders arrested include Luis Guanes, who is a member of the PLRA executive board, and Ramon Ferreira, Rodolfo Gonzalez, Esteban Delgado, and Ruben Ocampos who are members of the PLRA Youth Organization. Juan M. Benitez Florentin was also arrested.

The rally was held next to the church after the Sunday mass. The speakers were Manuel Benitez Florentin and Miguel Abdon Saguier. Members of the PLRA Youth Organization carried signs and chanted slogans against the government and the upcoming elections.

Manuel Benitez Florentin, who stood on the wall that surrounds the church, spoke on behalf of the PLRA executive board. Regarding the upcoming elections Benitez said that "the only dignified thing we can do is not lend ourselves to the farce and fraud, and this is why we should say no to the elections."

Benitez Florentin emphasized that the campaign being conducted by the PLRA is a campaign "for morality in politics, and that means we should profoundly meditate on what real elections signify. We will not have real elections here on the 14th because there is no freedom."

Miguel Abdon Saguier talked briefly to the crowd, saying that "Paraguayans should, without distinctions based on political ideologies, come to an agreement once and for all to give the people their sovereign rights. There will be a fraud, not elections, on 14 February. Real democrats should not lend themselves to that farce and this is why the people who are members of the National Accord and the PLRA believe in total abstention from the elections." Saguier then stopped talking because the police arrived.

Colorados Issue Resolution

PY060216 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 5 Feb 88 p 10

[Text] Yesterday, the Colorado Party Executive Board issued Resolution No 52, in which it "condemns the attitude of political parties or politicians who advocate disobedience of the law and the sabotage of the general elections scheduled for 14 February."

The long document released by the Colorado Party leaders refers to the incidents that took place in the town of Coronel Oviedo on 31 January. On that occasion, opposition groups not legally recognized tried to hold a panel discussion about the election process, but it was suspended by the forces of order.

The Colorado Party Executive Board resolution also repudiates "those cowards who promoted the disruption of public order and tranquillity."

It likewise affirms "the Colorado Party's firm decision to resolutely defend the institutional order of the national government."

"We must denounce before the citizenry and the democratic governments of other countries the negative and bothersome attitude of the condemnable enemies of peaceful coexistence. As political parties they are permanently advocating open provocation and the disruption of public order," the Colorado document states.

It also exhorts "all Paraguayan fellow-citizens, and especially the Colorados, to comply with their civic duty and vote on 14 February as true descendants of our national heroes who forged our democracy in the important days of our national history."

Another part of the long Colorado document states: "The legal political parties are dedicated to the campaign for the general elections of 14 February."

It adds: "The legal framework in which the political activities must be carried out is established by the electoral statute of law No 886 of the National Constitution."

Another part of the document states: "The national government, by virtue of its authority as representative of the nation and leader of its political and legal organizations, cannot tolerate illegal activities which, carried out under the guise of political activity, openly violate constitutional regulations. The state has the duty to preserve the legal order and public peace, and to safeguard the rights and property of all citizens."

The Colorado Party Executive Board resolution states: "Political activities whose objectives openly violate the law are not allowed. The tendentious incitement, based on slander and insults directed at the legally established authorities, irritates decent citizens, who constitute the majority of the Paraguayan people. The aggressive provocations by the instigators of and participants in illegal political activities undermine public order and tranquillity."

"Considering these facts, the Colorado Party must report to the honest, responsible, and patriotic citizenry and to all the democrats of the world, that small unscrupulous political groups with aberrant ideologies are following orders from antidemocratic organizations and people who have infiltrated church organizations. Their objective is to permanently promote disobedience of the law and of the constitutional regulations, in particular," the document states.

It adds: "These bad politicians who are involved in acts disrupting public order and who advocate electoral abstention and disobedience of the law, seek to turn Paraguay into what those naive, self-proclaimed defenders of Western democracy allowed to happen a few years ago in Nicaragua, a country that has now become Communist, a satellite of the USSR and the PRC, and an executioner of its own people, or in Cuba, where the so-called masters of democracy applied antipolitics by applauding and helping Fidel Castro triumph in Cuba, without even giving the people the chance to vote."

"In the face of these events and the upcoming elections, the Colorado Party Executive Board president, as official representative of his party, is convinced that the Colorado Party must voice its position in the face of repeated incidents that have violated the National Constitution and the laws of our country," the document states.

Party Official Interviewed

PY081434 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 6 Feb 88 p 7

["Text" of inteview with Jose Eugenio Jacquet, Colorado Party Government Board third vice president and minister of labor, in Asuncion by unidentified questioners; date not given]

[Text] [Question] Mr Minister, is it true that meetings and demonstrations by militants in non-legally recognized parties will no longer be allowed until after the elections?

[Jacquet] I cannot answer this question directly because I am not responsible for such decisions. But as far as I am concerned, they should not hold meetings at this time to disturb the democratic process and the 14 February elections. They can bring up other subjects later, and then we can go about resolving the problems.

[Question] Will special provisions be made regarding the elections—I mean, for what may happen on election day?

[Jacquet] No, I believe the police do not have the means to operate everywhere, throughout the national territory, to keep those people from making disorder away from areas where the voting takes place. What the police will do is guard the voting sites to prevent disorder there, but not elsewhere. That is absolutely impossible. Outside, everyone has to watch out for himself. We know the Colorados are organized to protect the Colorado voters. As for the others, there is nothing we can do.

[Question] The Colorado Government Board has been criticized for supporting party members who participate in repressive actions. What can you say about this?

[Jacquet] No. [In the first place,] it must be understood that repression does not result from any overbearing behavior on our part. What happens is that a Colorado reacts to attacks, to provocations. This is self-defense, not repression. In the second place, the Government Board cannot fold its arms and say: Let each one take care of himself. What is the Government Board for, then? If you have subordinates, you have to defend them at all cost. If you do not, then the subordinates will no longer take action. This must be understood. The other political parties perhaps give orders on what to do or not to do. If the actions by party members respond to the party's philosophy, they must be defended here in Asuncion or anywhere in the country.

[Question] Does this mean that verbal attacks on the Colorado Party must be repressed with violence?

[Jacquet] No, they are not repressed with violence. Look, if someone walks up to you and attacks you verbally, offending your dignity, you will not just stand there.

[Question] The Government Board says it does not condone violence, Mr Minister.

[Minister Jacquet] No, we do not condone violence. You have to see where the violence comes from. Precisely because we reject violence, we will not allow anyone to generate violence or to attack us day in and day out.

Briefs

New Febrerista Directorate

At the party convention held last weekend, Dr Euclides Acevedo was elected president of the new directorate of the Revolutionary Febrerista Party. Dr Juan G. Granada from the "Caballero Gatti" movement and Dr Jaime Ortiz Duarte from the "Unity and Integration" coalition movement were elected vice presidents. [Summary] *[Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 1 Feb 88 p 27 PY]*

Peru

Former IU Head Discusses National Issues

PY051817 Lima Andina Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 5 Feb 88

["Exclusive" interview with former United Left President Alfonso Barrantes in Lima by Eduardo Gusman; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Gusman] Good morning, Dr Barrantes. We have been looking for you for the last few days. We wanted an interview, even if it is only for a few moments.

[Barrantes] You have caught me with the key in the lock; I am just arriving.

[Gusman] May we talk with you?

[Barrantes] Well, this is my house so I am not breaking in.

[Gusman] Just a few seconds for the "Tonight" program.

[Barrantes] I have decided not to make any statements, but since we are both here now, and in deference to your large audience, I will answer some questions. Please be brief, though.

[Gusman] We thank you, Mr Barrantes; we will be short. You have remained away from politics since your resignation in May 1987. Have you ever felt weary or tired of politics?

[Barrantes] I have never isolated or separated myself from politics. I only abstained from public life. Political activity is not always public. You can work quietly in politics, which is exactly what I have been doing.

[Gusman] Despite your resignation from the presidency of the United Left [IU] on 31 May last year, many opinion polls indicate that you are one of the frontrunners in a list of presidential candidates for 1990. Independent of your decision to accept or refuse your nomination, how do you take this responsibility?

[Barrantes] Beyond the electoral question, this poll shows there is a lot of support from important social sectors, not precisely toward me but toward an efficient, responsible, and frank kind of politics.

[Gusman] Were the rumors about you organizing your own party, a Barrantist party, wrong.? When you left nobody guessed that the purpose was to form a front not only with independents, but even with parties like the Revolutionary Socialist Party and the Revolutionary Communist Party. Are we witnessing the birth of the Barrantist front?

[Barrantes] I myself am not a Barrantist, because I do not like factions formed after someone's name. I am not a caudillo. What happened last week was what we called the integration of the socialist forces. This is not a party. Maybe in the future.

[Gusman] Could it become a party?

[Barrantes] I do not know. On the other hand, I am not the leader of this party. This was a meeting of the leaders of greater Lima. The grass roots of Greater Lima have named their directorate. I respect this directorate because I continue to be a grass-roots militant of the IU Socialists and therefore of the IU.

[Gusman] If you are an IU Socialist, what are the other parties of the front?

[Barrantes] I do not know. You will have to ask them.

[Gusman] [Question indistinct]

[Barrantes] I do not like to characterize either friends or foes. Besides, characterizations are often inaccurate.

[Gusman] [Question indistinct]

[Barrantes] On the contrary. I have said many times before that I am a Marxist-Leninist because I am a Mariatequist [from Jose Carlos Mariategui, founder of the Peruvian Communist Party]. In this country they are synonymous.

[Gusman] Can this new current, or socialist front, increase the mutual distrust that exists among the members of the IU as a consequence of years of confrontation and separation? Could this mistrust sunder the front?

[Barrantes] I do not think so. I think, and many of my comrades concur, that this was a necessity. Otherwise, the largest bloc within the IU, or those that do not have a party, would not have an outlet to express themselves and be represented. After we organize ourselves we will know our numbers and how many seats we will have within the IU.

[Gusman] Some APRA leaders also call themselves Socialists. Could IU Socialists and APRA Socialists unite forces for the 1990 presidential elections?

[Barrantes] I do not believe that will happen.

[Gusman] Why?

[Barrantes] I want to stress that the front I joined as a grass-roots militant has not been forged with an electoral purposes in mind. It goes beyond electoral matters.

[Gusman] Do you not want to be a candidate in 1990?

[Barrantes] This is not a matter of personal decision. The decision to become a candidate depends on many other factors. You need an organization, a government team, and what is most important, you need honest people, because Peru today is corrupted on all fronts.

[Gusman] What do you think if we go to the other front, not exactly to the house in front [reference unknown], but to the Democratic Front that is in the process of formation. What do you think of the birth of this new front?

[Barrantes] I owned the house in front when I worked at the Municipal Palace. Now the house in front belongs to the same political party. [sentence as heard]

[Gusman] Some people think you still cherish that house.

[Barrantes] No. But I could discuss it. I think this was a very serious political mistake by APRA. I think the political instability of the country stems from that error.

[Gusman] What do you think of the Democratic Front?

[Barrantes] I salute all kinds of integration. The left is also working for unity. We will then have a leftist front and a rightist front from which the people may choose.

[Gusman] With which one of the visible leaders of the Democratic Front would you prefer to be measured up against in 1990?

[Barrantes] That depends on whether you measure them using a meter or a yard.

[Gusman] Of course I was not referring to their respective physical height because in that case you would be on the losing end.

[Barrantes] I can compete with Bedoya.

[Gusman] Vargas Llosas, Bedoya, or Belaunde?

[Barrantes] Well, I read Mario Vargas every time he publishes something. He is a beginner in politics, and it will take him just as long to become a great writer. But everything is possible.

[Gusman] And the other two?

[Barrantes] I have a great respect for Bedoya. He has been a good mayor of Lima. I also have great respect for Belaunde, who has already been president of the country, with all his mistakes, and including all the criticism we made concerning his administration during those years. Mario Vargas is answering to demands of some social sectors. He is doing his duty as a citizen. What I said before was only a joke. I have great respect for them and for those supporting them. It is important that the left front, the right front, and the center front compete against each other honestly to better serve Peru, and to contribute to removing us from this crisis, which is not only economic but also moral.

[Gusman] Some people jokingly say that perhaps you are reading Vargas Llosas more than Mariategui.

[Barrantes] That depends on the mood.

[Gusman] When do you read Vargas Llosas?

[Barrantes] When you want to think, you have to read Mariategui. When you want to distract yourself, you look for some fiction, and then you read Vargas Llosas.

[Gusman] Thank you, Dr Barrantes.

[Barrantes] I apologize for not inviting you in.

[Gusman] We expect to have another opportunity to interview you on the "Tonight" program. Thank you.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Endorses Iglesias for IDB Post

PY051341 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpt] President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has informed U.S. Ambassador Malcolm Richard Wilkey that Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias' candidacy for the IDB presidency has been made official. Iglesias' candidacy was made known on 3 February by the Executive Branch. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Views Integration Issues

PY081827 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0021 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Montevideo, 7 Feb (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias today stressed that the "common market is a goal" and that the multilateral agreements signed with Argentina and Brazil will serve "to promote regional integration."

Referring to a meeting that Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and his Uruguayan and Brazilian counterparts, Julio Sanguinetti and Jose Sarney, respectively, held in Colonia (180 km west of Montevideo), Iglesias stressed the importance of the fact that the talks between the presidents have become routine.

Iglesias said: "The fourth meeting (of the three presidents) was routine for this type of meeting, which is positive because of the close relations we have with neighboring countries and because of the opportunity that we have for adopting a major political course with them."

He added that "the presidents addressed several problems in a very informal manner. This gives stability to political consultation, which is very important."

Iglesias also reported some of the results of the meeting of foreign and finance ministers of the three countries.

He said the three countries expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved—integration has succeeded and commercial figures are encouraging—and with the fact that Uruguay has joined the accords signed by Brazil and Argentina.

Iglesias explained that the ties between the three countries, which are based on an old relationship, "have reached their own rate of growth and, as they grow stronger, they will serve to promote integration all over Latin America."

"The common market, which is an ambitious project, is a goal—it can never be a starting point because of its complexity," he stressed.

However, "the progress that we have recently made in the area of integration reflects efforts to consolidate a type of relationship in which our country must participate."

The Uruguayan foreign minister said that for his country, some Argentine-Brazilian accords are very important. "Among other things, Uruguay is very much interested in joining the Argentine-Brazilian biotechnology institute, because Uruguay views the institute as essential for its development and because we cannot remain outside this effort being made by our neighboring countries," he said.

Guyana

Shahabuddeen Resigns All Government Positions

FL080040 Bridgetown CANA in English 2317 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 8, CANA—Lawyer Dr Mohamed Shahabuddeen has relinquished all of his governmental, parliamentary, and political responsibilities in Guyana to take up an appointment as a member of the World Court, the office of the president said.

The resignations relate to all of Dr Shahabuddeen's positions in the service of the state, including his positions as vice-president, first deputy prime minister, and attorney general, as well as his membership of Parliament and of the Peoples National Congress (the ruling party), a statement from the President's Office said.

It said that in his letter to President Desmond Hoyte resigning his governmental responsibilities, Shahabuddeen acknowledged the privilege which he has had of serving the nation.

It said that in accepting the resignation, the president thanked Dr Shahabuddeen for his valuable service to the government and people of Guyana and expressed his best wishes to him in his new position as a member of the court.

Shahabuddeen's resignation from his several positions in Guyana took effect on February 5 and his nine-year term of office as a member of the International Court of Justice began on February 6. He will be proceeding shortly to the Hague for a sitting of the court due to be held later this month.

Meanwhile, according to a report in the CHRONICLE newspaper, a government spokesman has said that Hoyte is unlikely to make an appointment to the post of attorney general before the end of March.

The paper quoted the government spokesman as saying that in the interim, the statutory and common law functions of the Office of Attorney General will be discharged under existing law by the solicitor-general.

Sugar Work Force Strikes in Late Jan

FL271522 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] A strike in Guyana by sugar workers entered its 2d day with no solution in sight. About 20,000 field workers are on strike. The workers, who represent about 80 percent of the sugar work force, took strike action after an ultimatum had expired. The ultimatum came from the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union, the GAWU. They are accusing the Guyana Sugar Corporation [Guysuco] of failing to meets its demand for an annual production incentive for 1987. The decision to take industrial action was made last Sunday. The union is arguing that the workers should get 8 days' pay. The Guysuco company offered them 2 days on Sunday. Guysuco said the workers have no cause for quarrel.

Suriname

Netherlands Daily Lists New Cabinet

PM051555 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 26 Jan 88 p 3

[Unnamed 'own correspondent' dispatch: 'Surinamese Cabinet Containing Controversial Soemita Sworn In']

[Text] Paramaribo, 26 Jan—At noon today President R. Shankar swore in the new Surinamese cabinet. Willy Soemita, the leader of the Javanese KTPI [Indonesian Peasants' Party], is included among the ministers.

The NPS [Surinamese National Party] and the VHP [Progressive Reformed Party] (which form the Front for Democracy and Development together with the KTPI) had objections to Soemita because he was found guilty of corruption in the seventies, when he was agriculture minister. They finally agreed to a ministerial post for Soemita (Social Affairs and Housing) in order to avoid political problems.

The cabinet comprises five NPS ministers, five VHP ministers and two KTPI ministers. Retired Captain Sheik Kariem, who has no party affiliation, is the new defense minister. An important reorganization means that the Police Directorate has been divorced from the Defense Ministry. The Police Directorate has been attached to the Justice Ministry to underline the independence of the police apparatus. Vice President Henck Arron is chairman of the Council of Ministers. Dr Eddy Sedoc becomes foreign minister. He is an economist and was director of the Deaconesses' Hospital in Paramaribo. VHP member Soebhas Mungra returns to the cabinet as Finance and Planning minister. Pertab Radhakishun (VHP) is minister of Natural Resources and Energy. Prior to 1986 Radhakishun was prime minister in a transitional government, which was the result of an accord between the political parties and the military.

The other posts in the cabinet are as follows:

Mrs Elfride Alexander-Vannenburg (NPS), Internal Affairs and District Administration; Dr Ronald Venetiaan (NPS), Education, Science, Culture, Sport, and Youth Affairs; Dr W. Grep (NPS), Transport, Trade, and Industry; Romeo van Russel (NPS), Labor; J. Kipersadsingh (VHP), Public Works, Telecommunications, and Construction; Mr J. Adjodhia (VHP), Justice and Police; Dr Henk Alimahomed, Health and Environment; I. Redjosentono (KTPI), Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries.

Netherlands Outlines 'Emergency Aid' Plans

FL082137 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] During the coming 6 months, Holland will give Suriname 12 million guilders in emergency aid, and 5 million extra for the victims of the fighting in the east of the country. This was made known by the Dutch Development Cooperation Minister Piet Bukman last Friday in a note to the Suriname Government. The note was handed over to Suriname's Foreign Minister Sedoc by the Dutch charge d'affaires in Suriname, Mr (R. van der Kroon).

The money is to be used for the purchase of medicines and basic food items, and is separate from the 1.6 billion guilders which Holland still owes Suriname. In 1982, the so-called development aid was unilaterally suspended by

Holland. In the note, Minister Bukman expressed the hope that the program will be set in motion soon for the refugees in French Guiana who want to return to Suriname.

Rebel Leader Seeks Talks With Government
PM081537 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 29 Jan 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: 'Brunswijk Wants Dialogue With Shankar']

[Text] The Hague/St Laurent, 29 Jan—Ronnie Brunswijk's Jungle Commando wants to begin negotiations as soon as possible with the new Surinamese Government to end the conflict in Suriname.

This was stated yesterday evening by a spokesman for Brunswijk in French Guiana. According to the spokesman, the rebel leader wants to avoid unnecessary bloodshed now that a popularly elected government has been installed in Paramaribo.

"The Jungle Commando announces it has followed with approval developments in Suriname. It declares its readiness to negotiate with the government as soon as possible to bring the conflict to an end," the statement read aloud by the spokesman ran. The statement was drafted together with Brunswijk.

In the last few weeks the Brunswijk group has not carried out any armed actions. Its last operation dates from the beginning of January, when members of the Jungle Commando attacked an Army unit in Patamacca.

Repatriation From French Guiana Planned
FL041913 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] A work group is to be put together this week to look at the problems of the displaced Surinamese nationals who are in French Guiana. This was stated by Foreign Minister Sedoc in an interview with our newsroom this morning. He said that the return of the 8,000 displaced persons means rebuilding of the infrastructure and also there will have to be prospects for a productive existence.

(Sedoc) is advocating a quick return of the Surinamese refugees. Said the minister, we will do everything possible to start the repatriation in a careful and balanced manner.